

MANDELA'S MESSAGE FOR ULSTER

His hopes and
fears for peace

COMMENT, PAGE 17

SUZANNE MOORE: TOO MUCH HOMEWORK

Why the government
has got it wrong

COMMENT, PAGE 17

WHAT A CARVE-UP!

Why Britain
is having a
sculpture boom

FEATURES, PAGE 15

WOULD YOU SPEND £20,000 ON A WEDDING DRESS?

...Or would a £200 one
be as good?

FASHION, PAGE 14

THE INDEPENDENT

Wednesday 22 April 1998 45p (R50p) No 3,591

Newspaper of the Year for photographs

Blair in secret nuclear dumping deal

By Charles Arthur in London
and Phil Reeves in Moscow

BRITAIN has agreed to stockpile nuclear material from the troubled former Soviet republic of Georgia, under a secret deal brokered by the United States.

Amidst fears that it might otherwise be stolen by terrorists and used or sold to make a nuclear bomb, the material (500 pounds) of highly enriched uranium and 0.8 kg (1.76 pounds) of spent nuclear fuel is being removed from a defunct 40-year-old research reactor, located 12 miles from the Georgian capital Tbilisi. A team made up of American military and civil nuclear experts is preparing it for transport in the next few days by US military aircraft to the Savannah complex in northern Scotland for reprocessing.

Greenpeace described the plan, codenamed Auburn-Enderavour, as "ill conceived and dangerous" and pointed out that Dounreay will probably not be able even to begin reprocessing the material until 2001, because of a breakdown in its reprocessing systems and existing commercial contracts. Friends of the Earth Scotland said the decision "smacks of hypocrisy", claiming that the US has refused to have nuclear waste reprocessed at the facility because "it believed it would prove to be a major proliferation risk". Kevin Dunlop, the group's director, said: "Scott and his health and environment should not have to be made for such short-termism. This will undoubtedly open the radioactive flood gates where Scotland is concerned."

Though small, Georgia's nuclear legacy has long caused concern in the West, largely because of the risk that it would end up in the hands of terrorists or nations considered to be potentially hostile, such as Iran. The Caucasus republic sits at the heart of an unstable region beset by territorial disputes and littered with the wreckage of recent wars.

The US Energy and State departments have been trying

to find a repository for the materials since January 1996. Initially, Russia had indicated that it was willing to take it, but last year declared that it was against its laws to import nuclear waste. France was approached but also declined, but the UK agreed.

The Foreign Office said that the decision to take the material had been made "on non-proliferation safety grounds". A spokesman said: "We believe we have an enormous role to play. There is also a practical spin-off for the UK - the material will be used to make medical isotopes. These can be used for various forms of radiotherapy and detection."

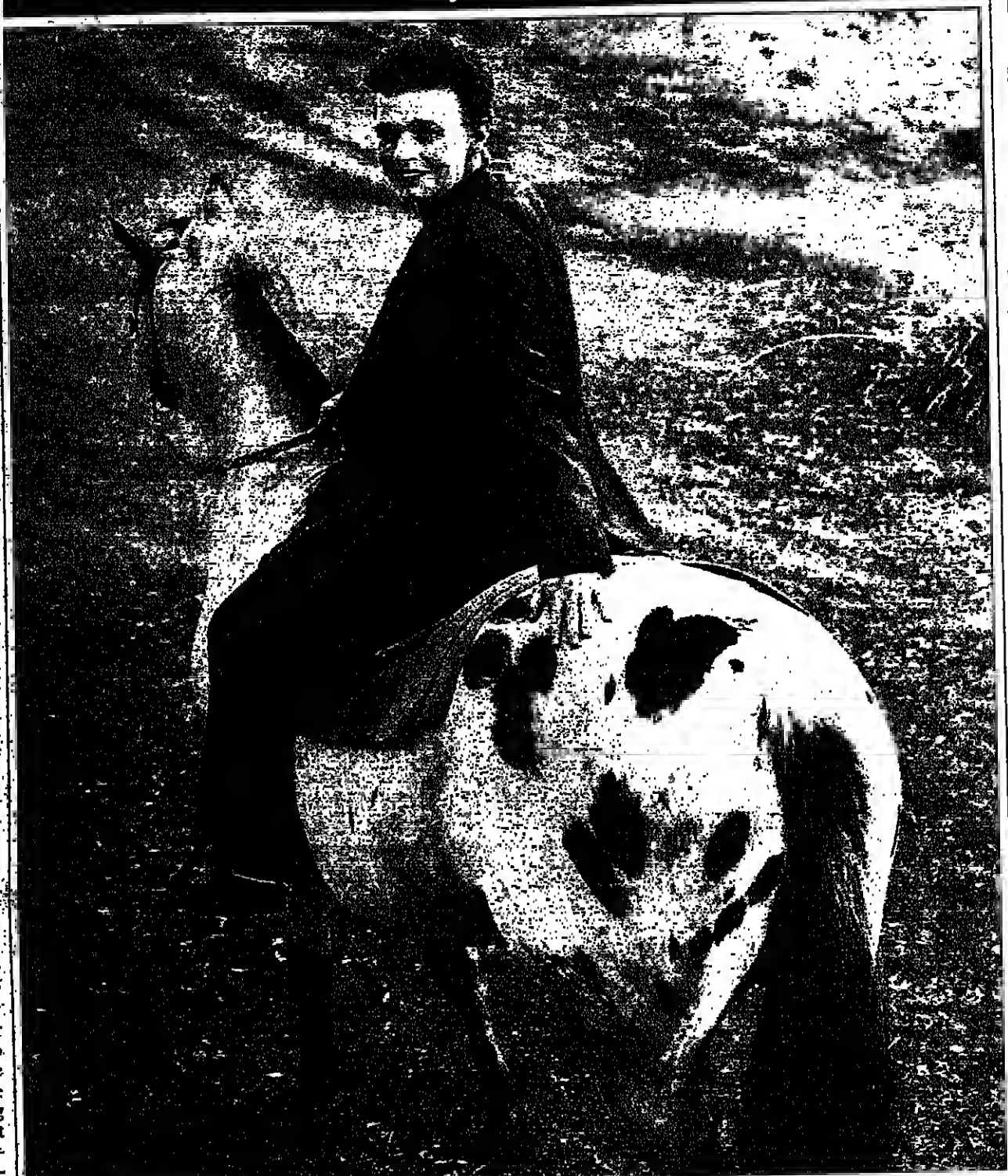
Yet mystery remained over why the UK volunteered to take the waste. While the amount is tiny compared to the many tonnes transferred during commercial reprocessing at Dounreay and by British Nuclear Fuels, the US would appear better placed to take it - and has done so before. In 1994, the US took more than 600 kilograms of weapons-grade uranium from Kazakhstan in a secret deal and transferred it to a nuclear complex at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

This time though, the US State Department reportedly suspected that any import would be challenged by environmental groups such as the Sierra Club, which opposed the import of spent fuel from a research reactor in Taiwan during the 1980s.

Instead, the UK volunteered. "It reflects the share of responsibility among the international community," insisted a Foreign Office spokesman. "The US has already made enormous efforts. We believe that we have an enormous role to play." The US will pay the estimated \$2m (£1.25m) cost of the transport, suggesting that the UK is making a diplomatic investment for some time when a favour is required from Washington.

The material has been kept in a cooling pond at the weather-beaten complex, and survived untouched throughout the Georgian civil war of the 1990s, when the reactor was virtually unguarded.

Linda McCartney's last precious days



One of the last photographs of Linda McCartney, who died five days ago, taken by her daughter, Mary, at the family's East Sussex farm a few days before her final trip to the US. Report, and another photograph, page 3

Labour orders its MPs to get out on the doorstep

By Anthony Bevis
Political Editor

THE LABOUR PARTY machine is turning the screw on its new MPs, issuing "contracts" which stipulate that they should spend 100 hours a year "blitzing" constituents' homes - with a target of 26,000 households to be visited by the time of the next election.

The "contract", which suggests the party is laying the groundwork for a three-year election campaign from June next year, is backed by the implicit threat that if MPs do not meet their targets, they cannot expect the advice, support and resources of the national party to back them.

The idea of the contract is provoking unrest among the

MPs, some of whom believe that the party was pushing them too far. One MP said: "This is yet another attack on the integrity of the House of Commons."

It is another distressing attempt by the Government to control MPs and turn them into an election machine, when what the MPs should be doing is acting as a check on the Government.

While some MPs told the Independent that they supported the idea of the contract, others said it was "threatening", "wrong", or "plain daft". Labour MPs elected before 1997 will be stunned by the audacity of the discipline now being demanded of their new colleagues.

Although it would appear that the MPs are being offered some latitude - the "contracts"

provide a "toolbox of best practice," according to one document - there is an insistence that the MPs and their local parties should be prepared and ready for a big political push next year.

One document seen by the Independent says: "The 'contracts' are designed to help our seats with new MPs get to the strongest possible position by June 1999, from when we envisage being able to focus our resources much more heavily on the next general election."

It then adds: "In future, an extra criterion for discussions regarding targeting of resources will be how well advanced is the new MP's seat by June 1999."

Some of the outline demands made in the contract would make startling reading for Commons innocents. Under a heading of "voter contact pro-

gramme", the document says: "The MP should be calling on voters at least one evening a week and spend half a day each weekend in direct contact with voters. We will target for the MP and party to contact a minimum of 100 households a week outside of 'election' periods - that's 26,000 households by 2002. The local party will also aim to do at least one evening a week telephone work."

"The party will support the MP in their work of voter contact and will use national/regional scripts as a basis for its contact work."

"The MP and party should aim to blitz (knocking on voters' doors) for 2 hours a day for 46 weekends (or equivalent) a year, and for two weeks in the recess."

Leading article, page 16

Murdoch's marriage breaks up

By Paul McCann
Media Editor

MEDIA MOGUL Rupert Murdoch used a gossip column in one of his own newspapers to yesterday announce his separation from his wife Anna after 31 years of marriage.

A single paragraph in the Liz Smith column of the New York Post announced an "amicable" separation between the two but described it as "painful and leaves them torn".

The announcement shocked friends of the couple and the media business. Anna Murdoch, 54, is a devout, conservative Catholic, strongly opposed to abortion and is thought unlikely to ever seek a divorce.

For his part, Mr Murdoch, despite his billions, is a well-known loner with few friends. He was known to be close only to his wife and children.

New York gossips immediately pounced on the story yesterday. Rival newspapers claimed no other woman was involved and that "Anna has been trying to get to him to slow down for some time".

Michael Leapman, biographer of Mr Murdoch, said living with the media mogul cannot have been easy. "It must be awful being married to a globe-trotting obsessive like Murdoch. It was probably her Catholicism that kept them together for so long. Now that the children are older she must be asking what is left for her?"

Yet it comes as a shock. She has always publicly been ex-



Rupert and Anna Murdoch

remely loyal to him, defending him when he's been attacked.

The brief New York Post announcement of the separation managed to inform the world that Mrs Murdoch would be staying on the board of her husband's holding company, News Corp. She had been spoken of as a stop-gap chief executive of the company if Mr Murdoch were to die before any of his children were old enough to take over.

The Sun newspaper, owned by Mr Murdoch, had no plans for a major investigation of the separation, unusual for such a high-profile figure. The story stayed off its news list yesterday and an insider at the paper said: "If we do run it, it will be two paragraphs hidden somewhere just so we can say we covered it."

Mrs Murdoch, Scottish by birth, met the then mini-mogul when she was 22 and a diary columnist for his first purchase, the Sydney Daily Mirror. He was 14 years her senior. They married in 1967, two years after Mr Murdoch's divorce from his first wife Patricia Mader.

Accused nanny may face new charges after baby's death

Diana Barnier

BABY whose Australian nanny is in custody accused of killing her, died yesterday. Caroline Longen, who was 26 months old, was pronounced dead at 3pm following a second round of brain scans. London's Great Ormond Street Hospital said at night.

Caroline had been in a coma following a seizure at

the family home in Cricklewood in north-west London on Friday.

The nanny, Louise Sullivan, 26, of Victoria, Australia, was remanded in custody for seven days on Monday after appearing before magistrates charged with causing grievous bodily harm to the baby. Caroline had been in critical condition in intensive care.

Scotland Yard said the charges against Ms Sullivan

would now be reviewed following Caroline's death.

"We will be reviewing them in consultation with the Crown Prosecution Service in the light of the results of the post-mortem examination when they are ready," said a Yard spokesman.

Detectives yesterday asked for parents and childcare agencies who had either employed or interviewed Ms Sullivan to come forward.

A spokesman for the Metropolitan Police child protection unit investigating the death said: "We would like to hear from anyone who has employed nanny Louise Sullivan either in Britain or Australia. We would like to speak with anyone who interviewed her for a position or any nanny agencies who may know of her."

Caroline's parents, investment company director Marcel, 41, who is Dutch, and his French wife Muriel, had been at their daughter's bedside throughout the last five days. An ambulance was called to the family's house on the morning of 17 April. Caroline was taken to the Royal Free Hospital and then transferred to Great Ormond Street where she was on a life support machine.

Ms Sullivan had reportedly worked as a nanny for agencies in Australia between 1991

and 1997. She was said to have preferred looking after children from birth to three years old.

She was registered with two nanny agencies in London specialising in placing Australians.



9 770551 948535

We're not blowing our own trumpet.

We're blowing the whistle.

Thousands of people across the country have been told to get out on the doorstep and spend half a day each weekend in direct contact with voters. We will target for the MP and party to contact a minimum of 100 households a week outside of 'election' periods - that's 26,000 households by 2002. The local party will also aim to do at least one evening a week telephone work.

The party will support the MP in their work of voter contact and will use national/regional scripts as a basis for its contact work.

The MP and party should aim to blitz (knocking on voters' doors) for 2 hours a day for 46 weekends (or equivalent) a year, and for two weeks in the recess.

Leading article, page 16

0845 3000 233 DIRECT LINE

Weekdays 9am-5pm and Saturdays 9am-5pm

TOMORROW

■ 50 books that have changed the world since 1945

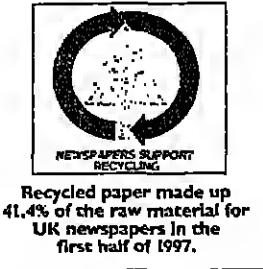
■ College juniors: joining university at the age of 12

■ Name in lights: architect Norman Foster's illuminating designs



CONTENTS

News	2-9
Foreign	10-12
Theatre	13
Fashion	14
Features	15
Leader & letters	16
Comment	17
Obituaries	18
Business	19-21
Shares	22
Unit Trusts	23
Sport	24-28
Crosswords	28 & The Eye 10
TV & radio	The Eye 12



Beef-on-bone case thrown out by court

By Clare Garner

FARMERS were rejoicing last night after the first person in Britain to be prosecuted for allegedly flouting the government's beef-on-the-bone ban had his case dismissed because the regulations were deemed defective.

Jim Sutherland, a 44-year-old hotelier, was summoned to Selkirk Sheriff Court, in the Scottish Borders, following a report by health officers who turned up at a high-profile dinner he hosted for 180 guests five days after the ban was imposed.

Sheriff James Paterson ruled that the regulations which Mr Sutherland was supposed to have contravened were defective, a judgment hailed by the National Farmers' Union (NFU) as a "victory for common sense".

The National Federation of Meat and Food Traders said it would now be calling for the repeal of regulations with "renewed vigour".

However, the Government stood

by its ban, which was introduced last December to reduce the risk of contracting CJD, the human equivalent of mad cow disease.

It was the definition of the words contained in the Beef Bones Regulations 1997 which led to yesterday's case being dismissed, Sheriff Paterson explained. He read out Regulation 3(2) which states that no person shall use any bone-in-beef in the preparation of any food or ingredient for sale direct to the ultimate consumer.

The word "preparation" caused the problem, he said. "If I am mistaken and the word 'preparation' must be read as meaning something other than subjecting a carcass of beef to cold, then the question arises what does preparation mean? The word is so imprecise that it could mean anything: trimming beef, marinating beef, tenderising beef, de-boning beef and so on."

Sheriff Paterson concluded that every caterer would, by merely chill-

ing a carcass or part of a carcass of beef, be guilty of the offence of which Mr Sutherland was charged. The implication of Regulation 3(2) was to make the present distribution of beef from slaughterhouses to butchers and caterers illegal because all such meat should always be placed in the chilling room.

"Thus, in one short sentence, in a piece of subordinate legislation, Parliament has destroyed the present system of meat distribution and

undermined one of the main purposes of the Food Safety Act, namely the protection of consumers from eating bad meat," he said. "That is such a manifest absurdity that Regulation 3(2) must be defective."

In a statement after the case, the Agriculture Minister Jack Cunningham said: "This case turned on a legal technicality. The regulations are essential for the protection of public health and they remain in force."

An appeal has been lodged.

Blair's new image - 'Man of peace in pursuit of peace'

By Anthony Bevis
Political Editor

TONY BLAIR yesterday dubbed himself "man of peace" in pursuit of peace" as he returned to London from Tel Aviv with strong assurances of new-found Israeli goodwill towards the Middle East peace process.

At a Tel Aviv press conference, and in earlier talks with Mr Blair, the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, said he hoped that progress could be made on substantive "larger issues" at next month's London meetings with Madeline Albright, the US Secretary of State, and Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian Authority.

He also delivered a most rare acknowledgement of the injustice being suffered by the people of Palestine, of whom there are 3.4 million scattered in refugee camps and elsewhere throughout the Middle East.

Mr Netanyahu said that while it would be wrong to raise expectations for London, "we all want to be able to surprise ourselves". Mr Blair commented at a joint press conference: "If we can surprise ourselves in the expectations, let us do so."

It was said authoritatively yesterday that the Americans

had not expected the promise of substantive talks on an Israeli redeployment from the occupied West Bank - and they were now pressing home the need for the new momentum to be maintained at, and possibly beyond, London.

During the press conference Mr Netanyahu said that while Israeli redeployment was part of a "whole cluster of obligations" to which both sides would have to contribute, the Israelis were "prepared to do our part if the Palestinians do their part".

The Israeli prime minister was asked by *The Independent* how he felt about the injustice now being perpetrated against the people of Palestine - just as Britain had once perpetrated injustice against the people of Israel. Replying to what he called a loaded question, Mr Netanyahu said: "Yes, there has been great suffering for the Palestinians." He then described Israeli suffering over the last 50 years and added: "There has been a persistent failure to truly accept that Israel has suffered which, as it happens, is beginning to fade away."

Mr Blair later visited a school in Tel Aviv where he wrote a Hebrew phrase in the visitors' book - "Ohev shalom, verodev shalom" - translated by No 10 as "Man of peace, in pursuit of peace".



Around about on the road: Dr Geraint Evans practises riding his powered monowheel in Bath, Somerset, yesterday. Photograph: Chris Ison/News Service

Georgia deal to ditch deadly nuclear legacy

By Phil Reeves
In Moscow

THOUGH small, Georgia's nuclear legacy has long caused concern in the West, largely because of the risk that it would end up in the hands of terrorists or nations considered to be potentially hostile, such as Iran.

The Caucasus republic sits at the heart of an unstable region. Paramilitary groups abound and a variety of weapons can be bought and sold easily. To the north is Chechnya, turbulent and unpredictable after its war with Russia. To the north-west is Abkhazia, locked in an independence struggle with Tbilisi.

Ethnic tensions frequently surface in nearby Dagestan, Ingushetia and north and south Ossetia. Nor can Georgia, which erupted in civil war after the Soviet Union collapsed, claim to be stable. Two months ago President Eduard Shevardnadze escaped death when his motorcade was attacked, the second attempt on his life in three years.

Georgia has made little secret of its possession of the nuclear materials or of its desire to get rid of them. They come from an old reactor 12 miles from Tbilisi which was built in 1959 and used for research by the Georgian Institute of Physics.

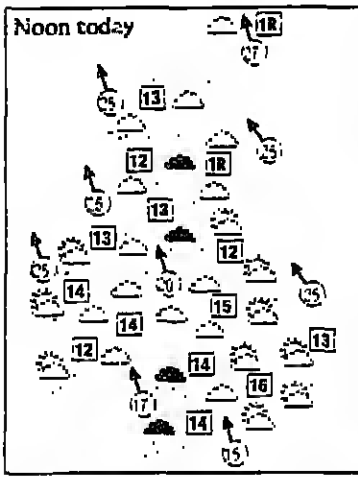
It shut for safety reasons after the Chernobyl disaster in 1986. Sources in Georgia yesterday confirmed that a highly sensitive operation to package and remove the material - reportedly code-named Autumn Endeavour - was underway and should be completed in the next few days.

Officials have been anxious to keep the project under wraps, although rumours have been flying in Tbilisi since the arrival of US military transport aircraft, which are expected to be used to fly the materials to Douvray. "If there is secrecy, it is because the Americans want it, since this involves the movement of uranium," said Rezo Adamiya, head of Georgia's parliamentary defence and security committee.

Assessments differ of the threat the cache could pose. It reportedly comprises 9.5lb of highly enriched uranium-235 and nearly 2lb of spent nuclear fuel. A US expert on the former Soviet nuclear programme, William Potter, last year claimed it could be used in a weapons programme.

The *New York Times* said yesterday that, while US officials maintain there is not enough for a bomb, private experts say that it could be used to make a weapon equivalent to 1,000 tons of TNT.

WEATHER



Northern Ireland and western Scotland will have rain, although brighter weather will spread across the west of Northern Ireland. Eastern Scotland, together with the western half of England and Wales, will also be cloudy with bursts of rain spreading easterly towards

Midlands. Central and eastern parts of England will have a warm day with hazy sunshine, but one or two local heavy showers are possible in the afternoon, and rain will be approaching from the west in the evening.

Outlook for the next few days

Tomorrow will be bright in the west with sunny spells and showers. Eastern areas will have rain at first but drier and brighter weather will spread from the west. On Friday, an Atlantic depression will push on north-eastwards over most of the UK, followed by sunshine and showers in the west. The weekend will all be unsettled with low pressure dominating the weather, but temperatures should remain above average.

British Isles weather

For the latest weather, call 0891 5000 or visit the website: www.bbc.co.uk/weather

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Aberdeen	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Anglesey	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Ayr	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Belfast	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Birmingham	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Blackpool	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Bournemouth	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Bristol	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Cardiff	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Carlisle	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Exeter	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Glasgow	10-16	10-16	10-16	

Air quality

For the latest air quality, call 0891 5000 or visit the website: www.bbc.co.uk/airquality

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Manchester	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Edinburgh	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Glasgow	10-16	10-16	10-16	

Out and about with AA Roadwatch

For the latest road conditions, call 0891 5000 or visit the website: www.bbc.co.uk/roadwatch

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Manchester	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Edinburgh	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Glasgow	10-16	10-16	10-16	

World weather

For the latest world weather, call 0891 5000 or visit the website: www.bbc.co.uk/worldweather

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Manchester	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Edinburgh	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Glasgow	10-16	10-16	10-16	

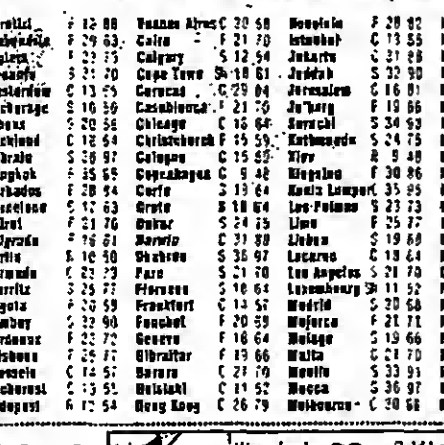
INDEPENDENT Weatherline

For the latest weather, call 0891 5000 or visit the website: www.bbc.co.uk/weather

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Manchester	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Edinburgh	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Glasgow	10-16	10-16	10-16	

Atlantic chart, noon today

For the latest Atlantic chart, call 0891 5000 or visit the website: www.bbc.co.uk/atlantic



Lighting-up times

For the latest lighting-up times, call 0891 5000 or visit the website: www.bbc.co.uk/lighting

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Manchester	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Edinburgh	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Glasgow	10-16	10-16	10-16	

World weather

For the latest world weather, call 0891 5000 or visit the website: www.bbc.co.uk/worldweather

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Manchester	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Edinburgh	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Glasgow	10-16	10-16	10-16	

Lighting-up times

For the latest lighting-up times, call 0891 5000 or visit the website: www.bbc.co.uk/lighting

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Manchester	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Edinburgh	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Glasgow	10-16	10-16	10-16	

Michael Hanlon

For the latest Michael Hanlon, call 0891 5000 or visit the website: www.bbc.co.uk/michaelhanlon

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Manchester	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Edinburgh	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Glasgow	10-16	10-16	10-16	

Lighting-up times

For the latest lighting-up times, call 0891 5000 or visit the website: www.bbc.co.uk/lighting

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Manchester	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Edinburgh	10-16	10-16	10-16	
Glasgow	10-16	10-16	10-16	

400MHzooooooooooooom!

DELL DIMENSION™ XPS R400 MT

- INTEL PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR 400MHZ
- INTEL 440BX AGPSET
- 64MB 100MHZ SDRAM
- 512KB INTERNAL CACHE
- 8.4GB EIDE HARD DRIVE
- STB VELOCITY NVIDIA AGP VIDEO CARD WITH 4MB SGRAM VIDEO MEMORY
- 19" COLOUR TCO 95 SVGA MONITOR (10.26 DOT PITCH, 17.9" VIEWABLE AREA)
- 3 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS
- DVD-ROM DRIVE AND DECODER CARD
- TURTLE BEACH MONTAGE 64 VOICE PCI SOUND CARD AND ALTEC LANSING ACS 495 SURROUND SOUND SPEAKERS
- US BOBOTICS 56Kb/s MODEM AND MINI TOWED CHASSIS
- WINDOWS 95 AND MICROSOFT® HOME ESSENTIALS™ 98™ INCL. MS WORD 97 AND MS WORKS ETC

£1,749 (£2,090.33)

DELL DIMENSION™ XPS R350

- INTEL PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR 350MHZ
- INTEL 440BX AGPSET
- 64MB 100MHZ SDRAM
- 512KB INTERNAL CACHE
- 4.3GB EIDE HARD DRIVE
- STB VELOCITY NVIDIA AGP VIDEO CARD WITH 4MB SGRAM VIDEO MEMORY
- 17" COLOUR TCO 95 SVGA MONITOR (10.26 DOT PITCH, 15.9" VIEWABLE AREA)
- 3 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS
- 14/32 X CD-ROM DRIVE
- YAMAHA XG SOFTWARE WAVETABLE SOUND (SPEAKERS OPTIONAL)
- MID SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
- WINDOWS 95 AND MICROSOFT® HOME ESSENTIALS™ 98™

£1,479 (£1,773.08)

DELL DIMENSION™ XPS R350

- INTEL PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR 350MHZ
- INTEL 440BX AGPSET
- 64MB 100MHZ SDRAM
- 512KB INTERNAL CACHE
- 4.3GB EIDE HARD DRIVE
- STB VELOCITY NVIDIA AGP VIDEO CARD WITH 4MB SGRAM VIDEO MEMORY
- 17" COLOUR TCO 95 SVGA MONITOR (10.26 DOT PITCH, 15.9" VIEWABLE AREA)
- 3 PCI, 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS
- 14/32 X CD-ROM DRIVE
- YAMAHA XG SOFTWARE WAVETABLE SOUND (SPEAKERS OPTIONAL)
- MID SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
- WINDOWS 95 AND MICROSOFT® HOME ESSENTIALS™ 98™

£1,199 (£1,444.08)

DELL

Yet again we're fastest with the fastest - the blisteringly fast new Intel® 350MHz and 400MHz Pentium® II Processors. And they're matched with the superfast new Intel 440BX chipset to deliver up to 20% faster performance*. So bringing improved results across the most demanding applications - now and far into the future.

So get online to the world's largest direct PC manufacturer*. Fastest.

TALK DIRECT TO US
0870 157 157

www.dell.com/uk/buydell

DELL

Yet again we're fastest with the fastest - the blisteringly fast new Intel® 350MHz and 400MHz Pentium® II Processors. And they're matched with the superfast new Intel 440BX chipset to deliver up to 20% faster performance*. So bringing improved results across the most demanding applications - now and far into the future.

So get online to the world's largest direct PC manufacturer*. Fastest.

TALK DIRECT TO US
0870 157 157

www.dell.com/uk/buydell

Grampian police chief stands his ground



Clinging on: Oliver

By Jason Bennett
Crime Correspondent

THE stand-off over the future of beleaguered Grampian Chief Constable Ian Oliver took another dramatic turn yesterday when his own police board demanded his immediate resignation.

But last night, Mr Oliver who had already resisted an unprecedented call from Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, to "pack his bag

and go", was still clinging on to his post, although he is said to have offered to bring forward his previously agreed official departure date from 31 August.

In a day of mounting frustration and anger, the Grampian police board passed a vote of no confidence in their chief constable and set a 2pm deadline for him to state his position. That came and went without anything being resolved.

But one man who did resign

in the course of the afternoon. It was reported, was councillor Duncan Crawford, who had led the unanimous call at the police board for Mr Oliver's resignation.

Mr Crawford, a former policeman, said he was giving up his place on the board in disgust. He said the Chief Constable was trying to broker a deal about his departure. He added that Mr Oliver had treated the people of the north-east of Scotland with "absolute contempt", and

seemed unable to differentiate between "political interference and democratic accountability".

Meanwhile, in the House of Commons, Mr Dewar faced questions about the extraordinary affair including the public slugging match between himself and Mr Oliver. He was also asked what procedures have to be followed for a Chief Constable to be sacked.

Mr Oliver had come under attack following a report by an outside force, Lothian and Border, under Deputy Chief Constable Graham Power, into Grampian's handling of the investigation into the murder of a nine year old boy. The report accused the force of a catalogue of failures and neglect.

Mr Oliver, his deputy David Beattie and assistant Peter Wilson were asked to leave the board meeting at midday as it went into private session. None of the three were prepared to comment, in marked contrast to the previous day when Mr Oliver had mounted a robust public defence of the force's actions during the inquiry into the death of nine-year-old Scott Simpson.

The Chief Constable will cease his duties from the end of next month, but will remain technically in post until 31 August which prevents his successor from taking over until September.

Frank Doran, the constituency MP for Scott Simpson's parents Dennis and Patsy,

called for the law to be changed to enable the Chief Constable to be dismissed more easily. He has written to Mr Dewar calling for a review of the law. He said: "If the police board and the Secretary of State agree that a chief officer has permitted a culture in which incompetence and maladministration are evident, as indicated in the report into the handling of the Scott Simpson case, they should be able to act swiftly and decisively in the public interest."

The Chief Constable will cease his duties from the end of next month, but will remain technically in post until 31 August which prevents his successor from taking over until September.

Frank Doran, the constituency MP for Scott Simpson's parents Dennis and Patsy,

End of line for the man who backed family values

THE BEST advice for anyone trying to understand the Murdoch family would be to take a look at its roots, writes Paul McCann. Keith Murdoch is the grandson of a Scottish Presbyterian minister.

The grandsons of the Kirk are neither temperamentally nor theologically ostentatious types and it is this streak which seems to have dominated Murdoch family affairs.

Despite the usual behaviour of millionaire businessmen in relation to their younger female employees there was no unseemliness in Rupert's marriage to Anna Torv. At least he was already divorced for two years when he met and married the diary columnist on his *Sydney Daily Mirror*.

Anna, the daughter of a Scottish mother and Estonian father who had emigrated to Australia when she was in her teens, soon gave up her journalism to have children and has been quoted as saying: "I don't think two people with powerful career drives can live comfortably together."

Even when years later she took creative writing classes and tried writing a novel Rupert was damning in his criticism and almost put her off for life. Mostly she has devoted herself to bring up her children: Elisabeth, 29, Lachlan, 26, and James, 24.

And very nicely brought up they were too. In the very best schools in London, New York and Los Angeles but with elements of Presbyterian normality thrown in.

Daddy would repeatedly insist on their presence dressed and washed at breakfast every morning at 6am before he went to work or jetted off around the globe. And Elisabeth, the likelihood of one day inheriting an estimated £20m they had to get themselves summer jobs for pocket money.

Reports of teenage rebellion are whispered of - Elisabeth left one of her expensive schools by mutual agreement, she didn't like them, and they thought her a little wild.

According to one biography when they were teenagers James and Lachlan were caught by Rupert watching what he described as "pornographic" films which worried him. In fact the

IN THE NEWS

THE MURDOCH DYNASTY

film was no more adult than most of Daddy's Twentieth Century Fox output.

All now all have eventually entered the family business. Most famously Lachlan Murdoch, who is current favourite to take over the dynasty. After studying at Princeton, Lachlan worked his way up the ladder, starting out as general manager of News Corp's Queensland Newspaper division where he was famed for starting work as early as his father and is currently in charge of the corporation's entire Australian operations.

Elisabeth reportedly owes her place as a runner for the top job to her mother. It was Anna who forced Rupert to consider placing his daughter as well as his sons in the race for succession. Elisabeth went to Vassar in the United States, where she was instrumental in setting up a campus television station.

She did an 18-month stint with her husband, Elkin Pizani, running two Californian TV stations bought with a loan from papa and selling them for \$12m profit.

Anna's youngest son James first looked like making the biggest break with the empire. Complete with pierced ear, he ran a record label specialising in Hip Hop music after dropping out of Harvard. However, now even he has returned to the fold as vice-president for music and new media.

And low-profile Prudence - the daughter from Rupert's marriage to first wife Patricia - is connected. She is married to Alasdair MacLeod, circulation and sales director of the *Times*.

Recently the only worries for this close-knit, competitive family were rumours about Elisabeth's marriage being on the rocks. But now it seems that not even close family members are immune from the burn-out that affects those who live too closely to Rupert Murdoch.

Pandora, page 5



Murdoch dynasty: Prudence, Anna, Elisabeth, James and Lachlan, with a girlfriend; (below) baby Elisabeth and her parents Main photograph: Big Pictures



MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Shortly after the couple's move to London in the early Seventies when Murdoch had just taken over the *News of the World*, two brothers, Nizamodeen and Arthur Hoseln, planned to kidnap Anna Murdoch and demand a £1m ransom. Instead they bungled the attempt and snatched Muriel McKay, the wife of the chairman of the *News of the World*. Mrs McKay was never found and police believed she was murdered and fed to the pigs on the brothers' farm.

MEDIA TALE

Anna Murdoch wrote a novel entitled *Family Business* and is believed to have used scenes

drawn from her husband's takeover of the *News of the World*. It tells the story of a woman who inherits a media business and turns it into an empire. Ironically, she then sells up when her children start bickering over their inheritance.

IN THE GENES

While she looks like her mother, Elisabeth Murdoch inherited her ruthlessness from her father. While running a California television station she made 18 of the 74 staff redundant and issued a "three-strikes" memo threatening sackings if there were three or more production errors during newscasts.

Paul McCartney tells of final moments at wife's bedside



Lady McCartney photographed at her East Sussex home by her daughter Mary a few days before her final trip to the US

SIR PAUL McCartney has paid tribute to his wife Linda's enormous courage in campaigning for vegetarianism and in her battle against cancer, writes Diana Blamires.

In the first detailed statement since her death last week, he has also spoken of the final moments at her bedside.

The former Beatle's personal statement about his wife of 29 years reads: "This is a total heartbreak for my family and I. Linda was, and still is, the love of my life, and the past two years we spent battling her disease have been a nightmare."

"She never complained and always hoped to be able to

conquer it. It was not to be. Our beautiful children - Heather, Mary, Stella and James - have been an incredible strength during this time, and she lives on in all of them."

"The courage she showed to fight for her causes of vegetarianism and animal welfare was unbelievable."

"How many women can you think of who would single-handedly take on opponents like the Meat and Livestock Commission, risk being laughed at, and yet succeed?"

"People who didn't know her well, because she was a very private person, only ever saw the tip of the iceberg. She was the

kindest woman I have ever met; the most innocent."

"All animals to her were like Disney characters and worthy of love and respect. She was the toughest woman who didn't give a damn what other people thought."

"She found it hard to be impressed by the fact that she was Lady McCartney. When asked whether people called her Lady McCartney, she said 'Somebody once did - I think.'"

"I am privileged to have been her lover for 30 years, and in all that time, except for one enforced absence, we never spent a single night apart."

"When people asked why,

we would say - 'What for?'"

"As a photographer there are few to rival her. Her photographs show an intense honesty, a rare eye for beauty."

"As a mother she was the best. We always said that all we wanted for the kids was that they would grow up to have good hearts; and they have."

"Our family is so close that her passing has left a huge hole in our lives. We will never get over it, but I think we will come to accept it."

"The tribute she would have liked best would be for people to go vegetarian, which, with the vast variety of foods available these days is much easier than

many people think. She got into the food business for one reason only, to save animals from the cruel treatment our society and traditions force upon them."

"Anyone less likely to be a businesswoman I can't think of, yet she worked tirelessly for the rights of animals, and became a food tycoon."

"When told a rival firm had copied one of her products, all she would say was 'Great, now I can retire'. She wasn't in it for the money."

"In the end, she went quickly with very little discomfort, and surrounded by her loved ones. The kids and I were there

when she crossed over. They each were able to tell her how much they loved her."

"Finally I said to her: 'You're up on your beautiful Appaloosa stallion; it's a fine spring day, we're riding through the woods. The bluebells are all out, and the sky is clear blue.'"

"I had barely got to the end of the sentence, when she closed her eyes, and gently slipped away."

"She was unique and the world is a better place for having known her."

"Her message of love will live on in our hearts forever." The statement is signed: "I love you Linda. Paul xxx xxx"

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Midland mortgages are subject to security and status. A charge will be taken over the property and appropriate life policies. Midland Bank plc is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and only advises on its own life assurance, pensions and unit trusts. C/01

"How much can we borrow?"

"What types of mortgage are there?"

"What is the difference between fixed and variable interest rates?"

"What if something goes wrong after we move in?"

Four questions you need answered before buying a home.

There are a lot of signs to buying a home. For answers to your questions, pick up a step by step guide from any Midland Bank or see the mortgage specialist there.

0800 100 123

Midland Bank
Member HSBC Group

For your free home buying guide, complete and return the coupon to: Midland Bank plc, FREEPOST NWV 1502, Manchester M15 30L.

Name/Mr/Ms/Miss (please specify) _____

Initials _____

Surname _____

House name/number _____

Street _____

Town _____

County _____

Postcode _____

Daytime tel no (inc STD) _____

Evening tel no (inc STD) _____

Are you looking to move before August? ☐ Yes ☐ No (please tick)

Are you a first time buyer? ☐ Yes ☐ No (please tick). Are you a Midland customer? ☐ Yes ☐ No (please tick). If so please supply your sort code: I would like to be contacted by a Midland mortgage specialist. ☐ Yes ☐ No (please tick)

Information from Midland in the future? ☐ Yes ☐ No (please tick)



New digs for an old Digger

FOLLOWING yesterday's news of Rupert Murdoch's separation from his wife, Pandora can reveal that the media tycoon - primarily based in Los Angeles and New York until now - has found new digs a block from the White House in Washington DC. The flat-hunting was completed in strict secrecy two weeks ago by *Sunday Times* columnist and Murdoch's "economic guru", Irwin Steltzer. The location is convenient to Rupert's favourite restaurant in the capital, Les Halles, but Washington insiders doubt he is planning to spend more time in the capital strictly for gourmet reasons. Steltzer, a very wealthy man, is one of Murdoch's closest friends and a long-time Aspen neighbour. Thus the new bachelor's move to Washington makes sense on grounds of friendly companionship alone. But there is also a rumour Murdoch has his acquisitive eye on the Mooney-owned *Washington Times*. Although this would give him daily access to the most powerful politicians in his adopted country, there is no evidence that the *Times* is for sale. Pandora expects that Murdoch's true motives for setting up house near the Potomac will become clear sooner rather than later.

Mandelson's anniversary ode

NEW LABOUR is going to celebrate the anniversary of its first year in power with a gala dinner, hosted by Mo Mowlam, in Newcastle on 1 May. A colleague of Pandora's rang Millbank and asked what entertainment would be provided on the big night out. Last year's election night victory celebration, you may recall, featured the pop group D-Ream singing "Things can only get Better". This year, according to the Labour spokesperson, "Peter Mandelson will be giving a speech." Tony Blair, unfortunately, will be "off-message" that evening, as he must attend a pre-summit dinner for EU finance ministers in Brussels. Other ministers should be warned that such a flimsy excuse will not suffice to absolve them should they dare to miss Mandelson's superb oration.

Voice of Fayed's regal return

MICHAEL COLE, having retired from the service of Mohamed Al Fayed, now seems to be returning to his roots as a BBC royal correspondent. Word has reached The Box that Cole recently signed a deal with BBC2's *Leviathan* documentary series. Cole (pictured) will be hosting a programme about the relationship between the turn-of-the-century Prince of Wales, Prince Edward, and his bride, Princess Alexandra. According to Neil Cameron, editor of *Leviathan*, "Cole obviously sees parallels between Edward and Alexandra and Prince Charles and Princess Diana, between the two princes' infidelity and the two princesses' loneliness." Anyone who watched Cole's television performance when he assured the world that his boss had been privy to the dying princess's so-called "last words" must wonder just what the devil is the BBC playing at here.



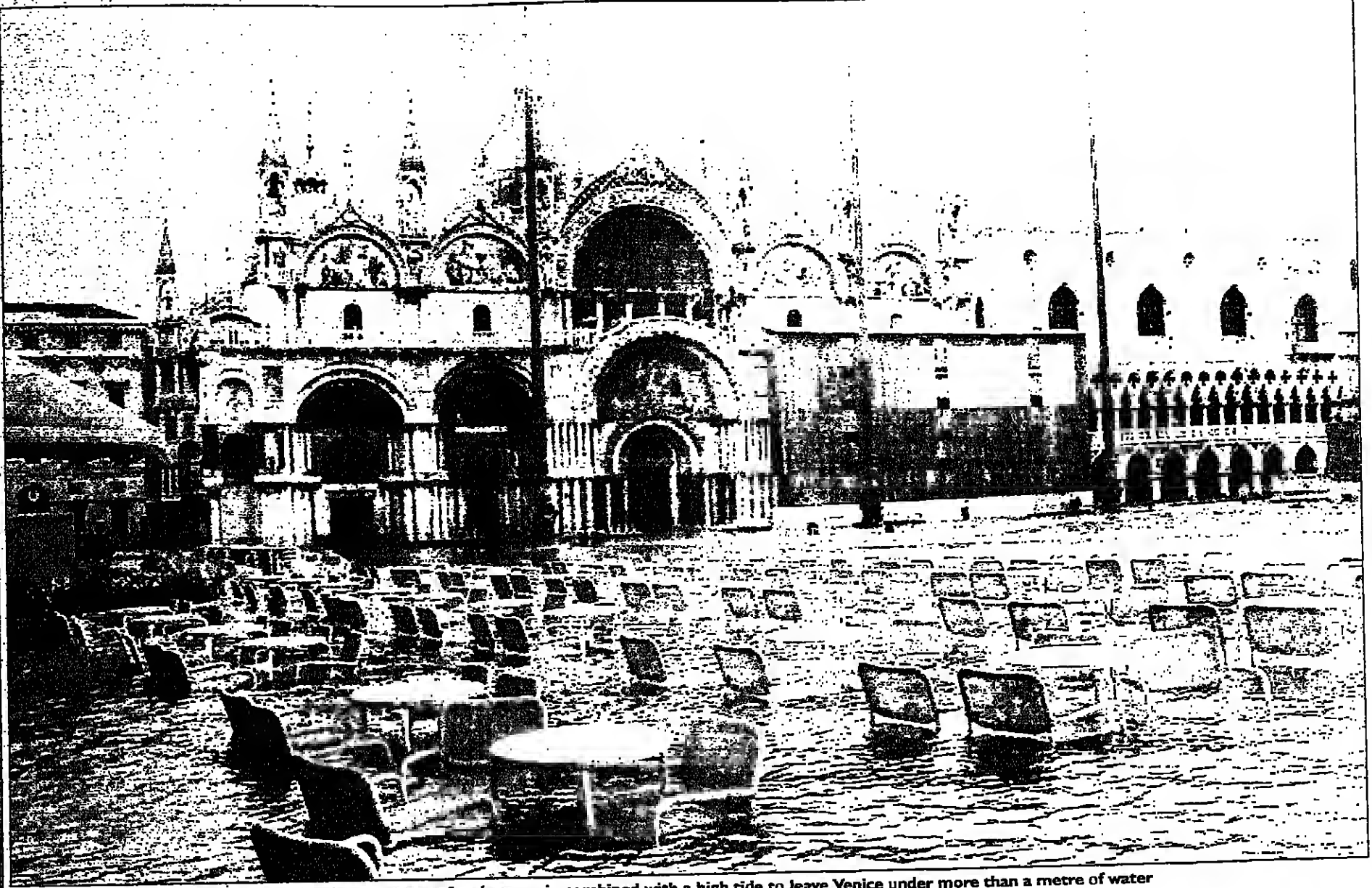
Time for a quick nuke

THERE are times when carefully measured, supposedly reassuring words can strike more dread than calm into a listener. Such a time occurred on Monday in the House of Lords. Responding to a question from Lord Jenkins of Puncney about discussions between the Government and the Americans on nuclear weapons in the Gulf, Lord Gilbert, Minister of State at the Ministry of Defence, replied: "Your Lordships may be relieved to know that Her Majesty's Government are not engaged in planning any nuclear wars at this time." But what about after lunch?

Jacko going underground

LIKE Rupert Murdoch, the controversial rock star Michael Jackson has been house-hunting recently. In Jackson's case, the new neighbourhood is on the posh East Side of Manhattan. Having examined the \$30m (£18m) former Vanderbilt home on 62nd Street, with its 14 maids' rooms, 17 fireplaces and unique children's floor with its own stage, the begoggled king of Neverland pronounced himself well pleased - except for the house's lack of a private back entrance. According to *New York* magazine, negotiations have been launched to acquire the house across the street so that a tunnel can be dug between the two, allowing Jackson a secret escape passage.

Pandora



Rising damp: Floods in St Mark's Square 18 months ago after heavy rain combined with a high tide to leave Venice under more than a metre of water

Venice historian attacks Italian delay

By Michael McCarthy
Environment Correspondent

VISCOUNT Norwich, chairman of Britain's Venice in Peril Fund, yesterday attacked the Italian government's delay in dealing with the threat to Venice from world-wide sea-level rise, terming it "unacceptable".

He spoke out after a London seminar organised by the fund in which the danger to the city from the world's rising waters was spelt out in detail, and contrasted with steps that other maritime cities, including London, have already taken to protect themselves.

Lord Norwich - who as the historian John Julius Norwich is Venice's chronicler - said that the Italian government had recently put back for a further nine months the long-awaited decision to proceed with its system of massive sea gates to control tidal surges into the city, which was first proposed in 1973.

"They did say they would give us a firm decision by 30 June this year, and this has now been postponed," he said. "I now assume the date to be 31 March 1999, when we will get a definitive undertaking by the Italian government, which will first of all say exactly what it proposes to do, and then begin to do it."

However, Lord Norwich said, something needed to be done "on a very large and important scale in the very near future". He went on: "We are forced to admit that 32 years on from the devastating flood of 1966 nothing has yet been created and Venice is still as vulnerable. This is obviously an unacceptable situation."

The Venice in Peril Fund, which is the British Committee for the Preservation of Venice, was founded as a direct result of the tidal flood of 4/5 November 1966, which inundated the whole city. It has hitherto spent its energies on restoration, helping work on more than 20 of the city's greatest monuments.

Yesterday's seminar was a departure, and not only in a scientific direction: it had an unmistakable political thrust, aimed at spotlighting the dangers of further delay in facing the threat of a rising sea level. A succession of experts, headed by Sir John Houghton, chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and the man leading the UN's scientific investigation of climate change, spelt out how the sea-level rise predicted for the next 50-100 years because

of global warming could bring flooding on a daily basis.

Professor Trevor Davies, head of the climate research unit at the University of East Anglia, said that quite apart from sea-level rise, Venice's position at the top of the Adriatic makes it particularly vulnerable to storm surges, while David Wilkes, the man in charge of London's Thames Barrier, and Marinus van Zetten, his equivalent from Rotterdam, explained how their respective cities had already set up their flood defences.

Professor Edmund Penning-Rowell from the University of Middlesex, who - as reported in

yesterday's *Independent* - believes Venice's sea-gates scheme will be a waste of money, had a frank exchange of views with Roberto Frassetto, the oceanographic engineer who helped design it. "I hope it will proceed," Dr Frassetto said.

In a statement after the meeting, the fund said: "Venice in Peril and all the participants at this symposium emphasise the inevitable and growing dangers in not confronting the risk to Venice, one of mankind's most extraordinary and beautiful creations, and they urge the Italian government to come to a speedy decision over the protection of the city."

Hoddle kicks off song for the World Cup

By Louise Jury

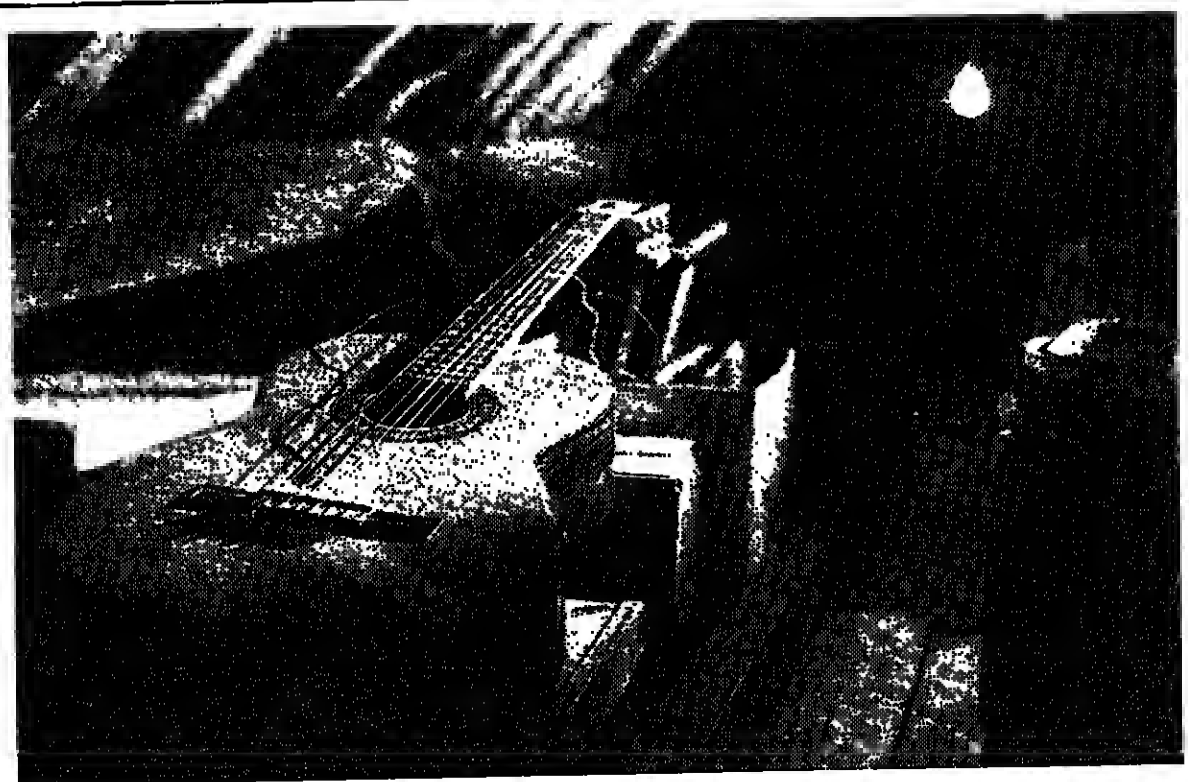
THE song which it will be impossible to avoid this summer is unveiled today.

England's anthem for the World Cup, teaming the unlikely combination of indie bands and the Spice Girls, hits the radio airwaves this morning before its formal launch at Wembley Stadium when England play Portugal tonight.

"On Top of the World" is an upbeat number with what one record company executive described as a jaunty chorus. Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, who has brought in a

faith healer, Eileen Drewery, to assist his side, said he hoped it would be at least as successful as "Three Lions", the Skinner and Baddiel Euro'96 hit with the Lightning Seeds. "On Top Of The World" is where we want to be on 12 July (World Cup final day)," he said. The song was originally penned by the Smiths' guitarist Johnny Marr and Ian McCulloch of Echo and the Bunnymen five years ago.

Today's version was written by McCulloch, who performs it alongside the Spice Girls, Tommy Scott from Space and Simon Fowler of Ocean Colour Scene, but no footballers.



There is an interest that's guaranteed to last.

We've all had interests that don't last.

But at least there's one that does and that's the interest rate on the Halifax Guaranteed Reserve savings account. Not only is your interest guaranteed to last, but we've even increased the rate.

So as long as you invest £2,000 or more, we'll give you an excellent rate over a fixed period of your choice, be it 6 months, 1, 2 or 3 years. You can also choose whether to have

GUARANTEED RESERVE SAVINGS ACCOUNT

	6 month	1 year
BALANCE		
£2,000-10,000	7.00%	7.25%
£10,000+	7.30%	7.50%

your interest paid monthly* or annually and because the rate, investment term and payment date are all confirmed when you open the account, you'll know exactly what return you can expect.

For full details of the Guaranteed Reserve account or one of our other savings options call into your local branch or phone 0800 10 11 10 for an information pack. Then you can put your interest in your pocket and not in the loft.



Get a little extra help.
www.halifax.co.uk

Calls may be recorded. Minimum investment £2,000. Interest paid net. Early closure of the account is allowed after 6 months (unless your account qualifies as a term deposit) subject to a loss of at least 20 days' interest at the rate at which interest is paid on your account. No other withdrawal is allowed. *Monthly interest available at slightly lower rates and is not available on the 6 month account term. Full details available at any Halifax branch or Halifax plc, Trinity Road, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX1 2RG.

Private Medical care

From £10 a month, isn't it worth taking care of the essentials?

Lifetime Essentials provides prompt access to private medical care from just £10 a month.

Why pay for more healthcare than you need?

Our Lifetime Essentials plan gives you the reassurance of cover for in-patient treatment. This means high quality care when you need it. Monthly premiums start from just £10, so isn't it time you took care of the essentials?

For immediate medical cover call now 0500 66 99 66

FREE first visit with each option

Please quote the reference when you call: 01222 9101

8am - 9pm weekdays, 9am - 6pm weekends

For your protection, calls are usually recorded and monitored

Legal & General Direct Limited
Registered Office: Temple Court,
11 Queen Victoria Street,
London EC4A 3DF

Legal & General
trust us to deliver

Green Flag
Motoring Assistance

3.5 MILLION MEMBERS CAN'T BE WRONG.

CALL FREE TODAY ON 0800 001 353

3.5 million drivers know they're better off with Green Flag. In fact, we're so confident of our service that if we don't reach you within an hour you can claim £10 back. Cover starts from only £29.90 per annum. To find out more, contact us right now.

http://www.greenflag.co.uk

*Price quoted are for 2nd/3rd year policies only. Cars registered before 1/1/97 are subject to an underwrite fee of £15.

WE LEAVE EVERYONE STANDING BUT YOU

GROWING CASHFLOW
KEEP UP!

34 34 35

Drug link to crime revealed in tests

By Ian Burrell
Home Affairs Correspondent

MORE than 60 per cent of criminal suspects who agreed to be tested for illegal drugs proved positive, according to Home Office research revealed yesterday.

In the Trafford area of Greater Manchester, 78 per cent of those tested had used drugs.

The drugs minister, George Howarth, said the research demonstrated the link between drugs and crime and showed a clear need for the Government's new Drug Treatment Orders.

The orders, which will begin in pilot form in September, will force offenders to undergo treatment for their addiction or else be sent to prison.

"The Government has made clear its commitment to breaking the vicious circle of drugs and crime," said Mr Howarth. "Fast-track treatment will be tough on the causes of drug-related crime."

Nearly 20 per cent of those tested in five areas across England and Wales during 1996-7 were using heroin, which Customs chiefs said last week was being imported in alarming quantities. One in 10 of the suspects showed positive for cocaine.

The research, based on urine tests, revealed traces of cannabis in 46 per cent of those tested.

But Mike Goodman, director of the drugs charity Release, warned against making a link between the soft drug and other criminal activity. "Cannabis stays in the system for up to 30 days so the fact that it's been detected does not show any causal link between its use and the

commitment of a crime, apart from some kind of lifestyle association," he said.

The study approached nearly 1,000 people arrested in the five police stations, selected to be "reasonably representative of urban Britain", said Home Office statistics chief Chris Nuttall.

Six hundred people agreed to be tested for a range of drugs. Most can only be detected in urine for a few days after use, while cannabis stays in the system for three to four weeks.

The results for positive tests for any illegal drug were: Sunderland 49 per cent, Nottingham 56 per cent, Cambridge 68 per cent, Hammersmith, west London 73 per cent and Trafford 78 per cent.

A similar study in the United States found just 7 per cent of people arrested were using heroin - compared to some 18 per cent in Britain.

Cannabis was also more common in Britain than the US, where only one third of suspects tested positive.

But 40 per cent of Americans arrested had used cocaine.

The total cost of drug-related acquisitive crime was estimated at £2.5bn in a second Home Office report released yesterday.

Some 130,000 "problem" users need an average of £10,000 a year to feed their drug habits, said Michael Hough of South Bank University.

They fund half of the £1.3bn a year they spend on drugs through property crime but the goods they steal raise only one-third of their true worth when sold on.

The report said that 97 per cent of drug users did not have a problem with their drug use, a finding which was contested by Mr Howarth.

Don't punish cannabis users, says BMA

By Colin Brown
Chief Political Correspondent

THE BRITISH Medical Association yesterday threw its weight behind MPs who have been campaigning for cannabis to be legalised for therapeutic use by urging the Home Secretary not to punish sufferers for taking the drug illegally.

A BMA team complained to a Lords committee investigating the scientific use of the drug that the Home Office appeared to be dragging its heels in licensing trials for developing drugs derived from cannabis. There had been no response to 14 requests for licences, the peers were told.

"If a patient is not suitable for a trial, and there are no other alternatives available, then we do believe they should be treated sympathetically in terms of the law and any penalty where they are using herbal cannabis for their own therapeutic benefit," Professor Vivienne Nathanson told the Lords committee on science and technology.

Professor Nathanson, head of the BMA's professional resources and research group, said she believed there could be a big worldwide demand for a cannabis-based drug which could relieve some of the symptoms of muscular dystrophy, muscle spasms, glaucoma, vomiting after chemotherapy and chronic pain.

"The numbers of patients who might benefit in a worldwide context may be very considerable," she said.

The committee is focusing on the scientific value of developing cannabis, which it heard had fallen out of use after the Victorian era, when newer drugs became available. The BMA team told the peers that once drugs were devel-

oped, it was likely they would be administered in the future by use of inhalers.

But the BMA said smoking a cannabis joint could be five times more carcinogenic than a tobacco cigarette. The BMA panel came down firmly against legalisation of cannabis for recreational use.

"Because of the way in which it is smoked, a single cannabis joint delivers the equivalent in carbon monoxide, irritants and carcinogens of 4-5 tobacco cigarettes and carries similar cardiovascular and respiratory health risks including the risk of lung cancer," said Professor Heather Ashton, Emeritus Professor of Clinical Psychopharmacology.

Professor Ashton, who was the consultant writer for the BMA report, *Therapeutic uses of Cannabis*, told the peers that her own students in Newcastle were also reporting dependency on cannabis, which was stronger now than 10 or 20 years ago.

The BMA is calling for research into developing synthetic forms of cannabis to avoid the side effects - including getting "high" - in the use of the drug for therapeutic use.

The health risks associated with smoking cannabis, including possible passive smoking by the families of cannabis users, reinforced the BMA's case for new forms of the drug to be developed.

But the team stressed that there were problems in developing drugs which could avoid the side-effects associated with cannabis. There were also difficulties in establishing accurate tests for use of the drug, which had made it so far impossible to develop a roadside test for drivers like the breath test for alcohol.



Breathing in: Candidates waiting to be judged in the search by Hasbro UK, the toy-makers, for the living embodiment of Action Man; hopefuls must be tough, square-jawed and willing to face the arch enemy, Dr X. Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Diana judge to hold court

By John Lichfield
in Paris

AGATHA CHRISTIE would, doubtless, have approved. The judge investigating the accident which killed Diana, Princess of Wales, plans to assemble almost all the witnesses and participants for a "mass confrontation" on 5 June.

The intention is to try to reconcile inconsistencies and flush out new scraps of information before the eight-month-old investigation reaches its conclusion, probably by the end of June. The 10 photographers who are accused of helping to cause the accident, and another dozen or so eye-witnesses, are expected to attend. The sole survivor of the crash, the bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones will not, however, be asked to take part.

The event is reminiscent of the final chapter of a mystery novel, but it seems unlikely that Judge Hervé Stéphan will be

able, Poirot-like, to point to one clear culprit, or to one clear cause of the accident.

The "mass confrontation" will, among other things, try to sort out conflicts of evidence between the paparazzi photographers who were pursuing Diana's party and eye-witnesses to the crash.

The conference will also try to piece together the available evidence on the "second car" which may have been involved, probably a white Fiat Uno.

The investigation has not excluded the possibility that faults in the Mercedes - in the braking system or the air-bags - may have contributed to the accident. Overall, however, the investigation remains more or less where it was at the beginning: the most likely cause of the accident is thought to be the speed of the Mercedes, coupled with the condition of its driver, Henri Paul, who had consumed three times the permitted level of alcohol.

British Gas
Home Energy

A SIMPLE SWITCH COULD SAVE YOU UP TO

£123
OFF

YOUR ENERGY BILLS.

CALL NOW ON

0345 123 800.

ALTERNATIVELY



NAME (MR/MRS/MS) _____ FIRST NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____ TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

Please return (no stamp required) to: Savings from British Gas Home Energy, FREEPOST, CV1037, Stratford-Upon-Avon, CV37 9BR.

*Payment by direct debit is provided free of charge by British Gas Trading Limited. Subject to status. 0% APR. Credit example: estimated annual charge of £340 (inclusive of VAT and other savings applied) = 12 monthly payments of £28.33 each. Within quotations available on request. 1 Gas savings: Our monthly direct debit compared to our cash/cheque paid later than 10 days (£2,237 kWh annual consumption). Electricity: Public electricity suppliers average direct debit prices (as at 10 March 1998) compared to British Gas (£5,240 kWh annual consumption). Savings vary according to consumption. Changes of PES prices may affect the savings shown. Up to date comparisons can be obtained by calling us.

Cook takes ethical third way on policy

By Kim Sengupta

THE Government yesterday unveiled its record on putting human rights at the heart of British foreign policy, and pledged to build on the achievements.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said the days have gone for Britain to go around lecturing unsavoury regimes. It is far better to listen and promote reform. That, he said, is the Third Way, and the basis of the Government's approach to human rights.

At the launch of the "Human Rights Report", Mr Cook said the aim of the Third Way was "not to row or tow" but to work in partnership across the world to promote reform.

The Foreign Secretary added that there were, however, "occasionally times when it is right to condemn publicly, loudly and firmly". He cited the example of Nigeria, where the military ruler, General Sani Abacha, has declared himself the sole

candidate in presidential elections. Mr Cook continued: "An election with one candidate is not a free and fair election. Democracy requires a choice."

Nigeria faces an October deadline from the Commonwealth to return to civilian rule.

Unlike the United States State Department's human rights list, Britain's is not overtly condemnatory. Mr Cook was asked by a Pakistani journalist why there was no criticism of alleged human rights abuses in Kashmir. The Foreign Secretary, who caused controversy with his reported remarks on the subject during a royal tour of the Indian sub-continent last year, responded drily: "I am not normally censured for saying too little on Kashmir."

Mr Cook said he had put human rights at the heart of Britain's foreign policy. He went on to chart what he said were Britain's successes in working with countries such as China and Indonesia, the banning of

landmines, and bringing an ethical dimension to arms sales.

However, the human rights organisation Saferworld criticised the Government for granting export licences for sales to countries with poor civil rights records.

The organisation estimated 86 new export licences have been granted to Turkey and 22 to Indonesia since Labour came to power. These included sales of small arms, machine-guns and accessories, bombs, torpedoes, mines, surveillance and tracking systems, water cannons, riot control agents, toxicological agents and rockets.

Labour MP Ann Clwyd, who campaigns for an end to such arms contracts, said: "I think this trade continues with only limited regard for the effects it has in increasing violence or the impact on human rights. I think that Indonesia was the first big test for the Government and on that test it has clearly failed because not a lot has changed."



Robin Cook and Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development, launch the human rights report. Photograph: John Stillwell/PA

*We look after over
a million
businesses a day.
(And you know what practice makes.)*



Every day, BT strives to ensure that our network reliability is second to none.

This means that all our business customers benefit from our team of 53,000 skilled staff who are dedicated to maintaining and monitoring the network all day, every day of the year. They are working to make certain that you don't have to compromise on world class service.

Your business can also benefit by making savings across

your whole bill with our discount packages. These give you significant savings on all your local, national and international business calls, whenever you call (not just on selected calls at selected times, as with some of our competitors).

To find out how your business can be one in a million, call us on **Freefone 0800 800 800** and ask for one of our dedicated business specialists.



www.bt.com

Iraq seminar says children are priority

By Kim Sengupta

EVERY effort must be made to channel aid to Iraqi children suffering in the aftermath of the Gulf war, a major international seminar in London agreed yesterday.

The humanitarian conference, which brought together all 15 EU member states, the European Commission, the United Nations and charities have formulated a range of ideas on how best to implement the oil for food programme, Foreign Office sources stated.

The details would be considered by the UN in New York, but in the mean time the British government is expected to give increased public funds to charities operating in Iraq. Clare Short, the Secretary of State for International Development, has already announced a £7m food, medicine and mine-clearing package on a bilateral basis for areas controlled by the Baghdad government.

Delegates to the London conference pledged to "eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic delays and obstructions" while ensuring that "nothing done in the way of short-term humanitarian assistance should create a culture of dependency or in other ways undermine the long-term interests of the Iraqi people".

It was also decided that there was a need for "greater prioritisation" and detailed attention must be paid to the plight of children in Iraq, especially those aged under five.

However, Foreign Office minister Derek Fatchett stated that Saddam Hussein's government must allow the international community to carry out its humanitarian work. He continued: "We cannot succeed if we have got one hand tied be-



IRAQ APPEAL

hind our back. It is the Iraqi government that can untie that. If they can provide that co-operation the chances of improvement will be immense."

"Sadly for too long Iraq has refused to co-operate fully. This must change if the organisations represented at this conference are going to be successful in achieving this objective of helping the people of Iraq."

The EU Humanitarian Affairs Commissioner, Emma Bonino, had suggested it might be time to reconsider the sanctions against the Baghdad government. But Mr Fatchett rejected this for the time being, adding: "We will support the lifting of sanctions once there is compliance of the Security Council resolutions."

Ms Short, challenged to either lift sanctions or not go through the exercise of humanitarian efforts said: "I think it would be wrong for any human being in the light of the political situation we are in to turn away from the Iraqi people and not do our best immediately and instantly while the wider political situation is resolved."

The Independent and Independent on Sunday's Iraq appeal has so far raised £88,000. The fund will be used to send medicines to Iraq to help 2,000 children with cancer.

Please send cheques, made out to The Independent Iraq Appeal, to: PO Box 6870, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5BT.

Prescott asks Tube chief to stand down

By Randeep Ramesh
Transport Correspondent

THE Government's plans for leasing London's Tube to the private sector claimed its first victim yesterday when the Tory-appointed chairman was asked to stand down.

Peter Ford, 59, was brought in by John Major in 1994 as chairman of London Transport after winning a reputation as a union-busting, strike-breaking director of the shipping company P&O.

However, he met his match in the form of the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott, a former seaman and trade unionist, who took the chance to remove Mr Ford from his post in restructuring LT.

Mr Prescott said that he had decided to bring in a part-time non-executive chairman. He added that Mr Ford had been "asked to vacate the chairman's job" and would leave LT on 22 April.

Despite his Tory credentials,

Mr Ford clashed with Conservative ministers as well as Tony Blair's Sir George Young, the last Conservative secretary of state for transport, reprimanded Mr Ford after privatisation plans appeared in newspapers days after LT had been briefed about them.

Despite a £365m cash boost wrung from the Treasury by Mr Prescott, the Tube is still facing a cash crisis. The unions - notably the RMT - have also attacked Mr Prescott's plans warning that they could mean higher fares for Londoners.

What is unclear is who will be running London's transport system in the run-up to the may-or taking over in 2000.

The new post will be crucial to ensuring the success of both the Government's plans for the capital's new constitutional bodies and also its aim to promote public transport.

Those who were said to be considered for the post include Steve Norris, the articulate former Tory minister.

PIN



Twenty minutes homework for all four-year-olds

By Judith Judd
Education Editor

FOUR-year-olds should spend 20 minutes a day on homework and 16-year-olds two and a half hours, according to Government guidelines published yesterday. Ministers also announced 8,000 out-of-school study centres to provide state-school pupils with similar opportunities to those available for children who attend private "crammers".

The voluntary guidelines suggest how homework should increase as pupils move up the school. For four-year-olds the time should be spent reading with parents and learning to listen and respond. Formal homework should begin at the age of seven. Research done two years ago found that 43 per cent of 10-year-olds have no regular homework and half are spending three hours or more a night watching television.

But an unpublished study by the standards watchdog, the Office for Standards in Education, has shown homework plays a vital role in raising standards. One experiment in Rower Hamlets, east London, one of the country's poorest areas, found standards rose by 30 per cent

Out of hours

Reception year	20 minutes a day (including 10 mins reading)
Years one and two	30 minutes (20 minutes reading)
Years three and four	40 minutes (20 minutes reading)
Years five and six	50 minutes (20 minutes reading)
Years seven and eight	45-90 minutes
Year nine	1-2 hours
Year 10 and 11	1½-2½ hours

over two years. In future, schools will be expected to include their homework "expectations" in home-school agreements to be introduced under legislation now before Parliament. Three out of five primary and most secondary schools are already following the guidelines.

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education, said: "I know that parents will find these guidelines particularly valuable in giving them a reasonable idea of the amount of homework their children should expect. Many are unsure... whether children should normally expect to be set homework."

The aim was to give all children the sort of help which parents took for granted in a home where education was the norm. One facility offered by some schools was a telephone homework line which parents could

ring to check how much homework had been set.

Mr Blunkett said he was investigating whether homework should be set in the holidays. "Very little homework is given by state schools in the holidays. Quite a lot is given in private schools."

He was unapologetic about borrowing ideas from the private sector. The lottery-funded study centres might play a similar role to crammers, which provide extra tuition for fees. "If it makes a difference for the children whose parents buy education, there is no reason why it should not make the same difference for those who can't afford to pay."

The homework centres will be staffed by teachers and volunteers. They will entice pupils by offering art, drama and sport as well as academic study.

Susanne Moore, page 17

'Good idea, but will they do it?'

PARENTS hacked the Government's plans for a network of homework clubs yesterday, but breathed a world-weary sigh about education ministers' new homework guidelines, writes Ben Russell.

Bev Edwards, from Silsoe, Bedfordshire, who has two children, said: "I have a daughter who has no problem with home-

work and a son who we nag about it. Before the election the children said 'we don't want Labour because they will make us do more homework'."

She backed Government plans for after school homework clubs: "I work so I'm not always here when the children get home."

Another Bedfordshire par-

ent, Marian Townsend, who has two sons and a daughter at secondary school, chuckled when she heard the homework targets.

"It's a good idea, but things like homework do vary from child to child," she said. "One child could be very bright and do something very quickly while another takes twice the time."



Fruit and nut: The television chef Ainsley Harriot submerged in 25,000 "lookalike tomatoes" at a tasting session at Covent Garden yesterday. The star of programmes such as *Ready Steady Cook* and *Ainsley's Barbecue Bible* was urging shoppers to buy British and stem the flood of foreign imports in a campaign which follows a £5m investment to boost the flavour of home-grown varieties. Photograph: Kalpesh Lithiga

E.coli victims 'suffered from delays'

THE daughter of an elderly victim of the Scottish *E.coli* 0157 food poisoning outbreak yesterday made an emotional and anguished public plea for an explanation of delays in her mother's treatment.

Agnes Ralston claimed: "It had taken too long for her mother's case to be identified as food poisoning."

■ too long for her to be admitted to hospital; ■ and that there were delays before a move to another hospital with a specialist kidney unit was considered.

In an emotional appeal she told the inquiry in Motherwell: "Why wasn't mum taken to a hospital with a renal unit?"

"Why did she have to wait so long before they took her to hospital?"

"Why didn't environmental health tell us of the *E.coli* outbreak?"

"Why were there no ambulances in an *E.coli* outbreak?"

Her mother, Jessie Rogerson, 71, of Waterloo, Lanarkshire, died in Law Hospital, near Carlisle, on 27 November 1996, more than a week after attending a church lunch in Wishaw at which several pensioners were struck down by the bug. Up to 21 elderly people died in the outbreak, the world's worst, and in which the Wishaw shop of Lanarkshire butcher John Barr has been implicated.

Mrs Ralston said that when the seriousness of her mother's condition was first spotted by doctors, the family took her to hospital themselves because that was quicker than waiting for an ambulance on a snow-swept winter day.

"My mother had to have a

hin-hag tied to her to get her to hospital, she was so weak it took three of us to carry her down the stairs," she told the inquiry.

She said that although her mother had attended the church lunch, it was not until the following Sunday that she was admitted to hospital, and that the family doctor had first thought her mother's illness was caused by haemorrhoids and a stomach upset.

She said she had wanted her mother to be admitted earlier but had deferred to her doctor - and also said that while her

mother was admitted on the Sunday, she had been told that GPs were aware of the *E.coli* on the Friday and the Saturday.

In her appeal Mrs Ralston said: "Maybe if my mum had been treated differently or taken in earlier, would my mum have lived?"

"If my mum was going to die, she should have died with some dignity. My mum died in a great deal of pain, and if there are lessons to be learned, let's learn them. We don't want anyone, child or adult, to suffer the way my mum suffered."

upset

digital

The name of the game is Service. And the champion, revealed by a Computerworld survey, is Digital — trouncing the best-known integrators in the business. We have more Microsoft-trained service professionals than IBM, Compaq and HP. Combined. So call us on 0800 393 200. Visit www.digital.com/service/nsis. And get ready to win in a networked world.



Rainbow fades at funeral of black baby

By Mary Braid
in Johannesburg

ANGELINA ZWANE's coffin was so pitifully small it took hardly any flowers to cover, and seemed far too fragile for the emotion that swelled and broke around it yesterday.

It is 10 days since white farmer Nicholas Steyn, 42 - allegedly white drunk - shot Angelina, the six-month-old child of his domestic worker, through the head while she was being carried across his land on her 11-year-old cousin Francina's back.

Ten days in which the death and the failure of white police immediately to arrest Steyn,

have caused white and black attitudes to harden and prompted scathing evaluations about the true state of the Rainbow Nation's race relations, particularly in rural backwaters where the white "baas" is still king and black workers virtual serfs.

Yesterday, thousands converged on Benoni, east of Johannesburg, for what was as much a political rally as a funeral. For four hours the candles burned around Angelina's coffin as black speakers stood on the platform above to denounce whites spitting in the face of reconciliation.

"Nicholas shot the children like they were beasts," President Nelson Mandela's former wife



Eugene Steyn, stepmother of Nicholas Steyn, comforts Susan Diamoni, mother of baby Angelina Zwane. Above, protests at her death. Photographs: AP/AF

Winnie told the angry crowd. With hundreds of farmers murdered in the four years since Mr Mandela took power, Steyn told police he believed the children were "intruders".

But Mrs Mandela said he knew the children because they walked the path every day. One of the first to visit the Zwanes' tin shack, next to Steyn's home, Mrs Mandela said the family told her Steyn frequently brandished a gun and shouted he did not want "kaffirs" on his land.

"Maybe there is no Rainbow Nation because the rainbow has no colour black," said Mrs Mandela.

She softened her message with the revelation that many whites had offered sympathy and financial help to Angelina's family. It was also revealed that Steyn's stepmother had attended Angelina's vigil following a personal "reconciliation" appeal from the President, who has been criticised by white right-wingers for visiting An-

gelina's mother Violet but ignoring dead white farmers.

But other speakers said Angelina's death marked the end of reconciliation. "Whites continue... to kick us in the teeth," said Nkosi Mulala, of the left-wing Azanian People's Party. "The more we display human benevolence towards them the more we feel their arrogance and scorn." Even as priests begged whites to stop "closing doors" on reconciliation, the sound of youths chanting

"Farmer, farmer, bullet, bullet" drifted into the packed hall from outside.

The National Party, still struggling to shake off its apartheid past, yesterday condemned the "racially divisive" speeches, insisting Angelina's death should be a tragedy which bound together the entire nation. But there was only a handful of whites among the mourners, fuelling complaints that in the new South Africa a black child is still worth less than a white.

Angelina's mother Violet looked shell-shocked yesterday; her personal tragedy has been seized and moulded into national debate.

With financial help from Mrs Mandela, Angelina was buried in a graveyard previously reserved for whites. She was laid to rest in the corner set aside for babies - the first black child among the whites. It was a rather tiny step on the road to racial equality, considering how she died.

Guilty verdict for anti-abortionists

A CHICAGO jury has given United States abortion clinics a significant legal weapon against intimidatory anti-abortion protests.

In a verdict which was welcomed as "a tremendous victory for abortion providers", the jury found that protest groups in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Wilmington, Delaware, were guilty of breaking federal laws against racketeering and extortion and awarded damages of \$86,000 (£51,000). While the verdict opens the way for clinics throughout the US to sue and potentially bankrupt the most prominent protest groups, the clinics may have difficulty collecting the damages, as protesters have tended to avoid having assets that can be sequestered.

— Mary Dejevsky, Washington

Marcos millions

MORE THAN \$28m placed in Swiss bank accounts by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos has been returned to the Philippines, a senior official said yesterday. But last-Jitch appeals by Marcos family lawyers blocked the transfer of the rest of an estimated \$540m. Magtanggol Guni-gundo, chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) said.

— Reuters, Manila

Serbia showdown

SERBIAN and Western security sources fear that a bloody showdown is imminent in Serbia's Kosovo province, where separatist ethnic Albanians outnumber Serbs by a ratio of nine to one.

— Reuters, Pristina

Secret tunnel found under Stalin's study in Kremlin

By Phil Reeves
in Moscow

WAS Josef Stalin, architect of one of the most bloody and repressive regimes in history, the victim of his own paranoid obsession with spying? Was the dictator himself under secret surveillance from his chief henchman, Lavrenty Beria?

Workers refurbishing the Kremlin have found a secret tunnel running under the floor of Stalin's former study, Russia's *Truth* newspaper reported yesterday, which could have been used by Beria, head of the NKVD secret police, to eaves-

drop on his tyrannical boss. Before the introduction of the electronic bug, Soviet agents used hidden passageways to snoop on the Moscow elite - most notoriously, in the House on the Embankment, whose occupants were constantly monitored by police spies who were listening in from spaces behind the walls. Sometimes, they could even smell the agents' cigarettes. Many were subsequently killed or sent to labour camps.

Truth reported that parts of the newly-discovered Kremlin tunnel are separated from Stalin's old office only by the width of a few floorboards.

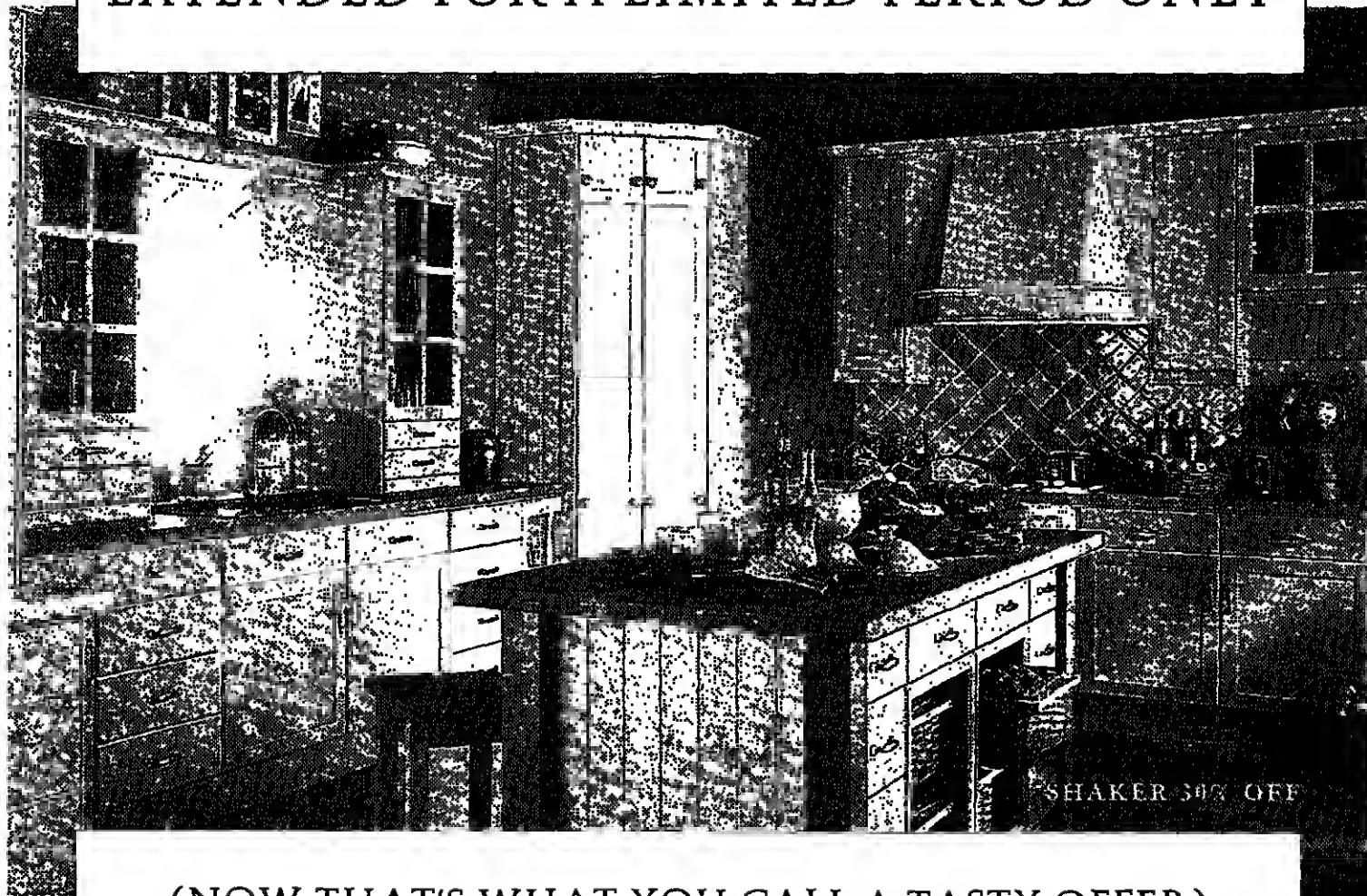
Agents for Beria, whose 15-year reign ended when he was executed in 1953, would have had no difficulty in hearing what was going on within. "One could hear every word spoken in the office," said the paper, which claims the passage is between the first and second floor of the Kremlin's Senate Palace, behind the mausoleum on Red Square which holds Lenin's body.

No evidence has been found in KGB or other archives that Stalin ordered the tunnel to be built, or knew of its existence. Had it been an escape passageway, it would have been more "comfortable", said *Truth*.

40% OFF*

plus AN EXTRA 10% OFF*

EXTENDED FOR A LIMITED PERIOD ONLY



(NOW THAT'S WHAT YOU CALL A TASTY OFFER)

At Magnet every single kitchen is designed not only to look stunningly beautiful, it's built to take everything life can throw at it. And right now there's a fantastic 40% off* must Magnet kitchen and bedroom cabinets, plus an extra 10% off for a limited period only. There are some great offers on **Whirlpool** and **Smeg** appliances too. Simply call in at your local Magnet showroom and find out why all Magnet products are designed for living and built for life. Your life. With over 200 stores nationwide there's bound to be a Magnet showroom near you. Telephone **0800 192 192** for details of your nearest store. Remember to quote code IND30W

Magnet

Designed for living BUILT FOR LIFE

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday 9.00am-5.00pm. Selected branches open until 5.00pm on Thursday and 10.00am-4.00pm on Sunday. Check each branch for details. *Discounts on kitchens are off prices charged between 24th November and 24th December 1997. Discount on beds are off prices to be charged after 25th May 1998. Plus an extra 10% off promotional prices when you spend £1000 or more.

A 2% mortgage discount for 3 years and £1520 cash. Just think what you could buy.



■ Pay 2% below the variable rate - a £100 per month saving* on a £60,000 mortgage for the first 3 years. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection.

0800 731 0 137

*From 8pm Monday - Friday, 10am - 4pm weekends.

A collection of nationwide firms of independent mortgage advisers marketing exclusive mortgage products from major lenders. ID01

Typical Example: A £60,000 variable rate mortgage on a property valued at £100,000 repaid over 25 years starting completion on 30/06/98. 30 years in arrears, repayments of £324.00 a month. A 2% discount below the variable rate would save £1,520 in cash. The lender will also give you £1,000 in December 1999. No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,000 in December 1999. ■ No Additional Mortgage Security Fee charged if you borrow less than 90% of the property's value. ■ Either swap your existing mortgage or use this offer to buy a new home. ■ This exclusive offer is only available through Independent Mortgage Collection. ■ The lender will also give you £1,520 in cash - £520 after completion and £1,00

Saudi zealots lash moral 'deviants' into line

IT COULD only happen in Saudi Arabia. Only in Mecca are the *mutawwa* - the religious police - so zealous.

And only in Mecca, the holiest city in the Muslim world and the site of the annual Haj pilgrimage, could a journalist invoke their wrath with the mildest of criticisms, as Zuhair Kutbi found out to his cost.

Within hours of publishing a book criticising the powers of the often self-appointed guardians of Saudi morality, Mr Kutbi was arrested by the religious police, slung into jail and sentenced to be flogged.

The Saudi authorities cen-

sored all news of the embarrassing affair and only today - months after Mr Kutbi was detained, beaten in prison and, thanks to a friend in high places, released - has news of his treatment become known.

The *mutawwa* are chosen from the strict Wahabi sect to which the Saudi royal family belong, and spend much of their time cruising the streets of Saudi cities searching for signs of immorality - "immodestly" dressed women, men in the company of girlfriends, or bus-

ing parties. Mr Kutbi, like many Saudis, was fed up not only with the *mutawwa*'s behaviour but with their lack of education.

A journalist on a local paper, he wrote a short book on the morality police, unfavourably comparing their work with the purity of Islam's teachings.

"It was very mild stuff and not very daring," another Saudi journalist commented yesterday. "He never even mentioned the *mutawwa* by name, but merely hinted at them."

Mr Kutbi published his book

in Cairo, but the moment it arrived in Mecca he was dragged from his home to prison.

According to one report, the morality police initially tried to have him sentenced to death for "insulting the *ulema*" (religious leaders) but later accepted a sentence of flogging and several years' imprisonment.

Mr Kutbi spent weeks in jail while family friends sought his release.

Saved from the flogging, he was eventually freed - though only after what a relative cau-

tiously described as "a difficult few months" behind bars. It is said that he was badly beaten.

Many Saudis are frustrated with the activities of the *mutawwa*, seeing in their power an extension of Wahabi fanaticism. "They are as vicious as snarling dogs," a Saudi academic told *The Independent*. "They are racist, these people, with their zany ideas. Kutbi said there should be no more religious police and he's right. The judicial system is corrupt."

"This man is from a well-

known Mecca family but he was manhandled and beaten by these so-called guardians of Islam."

As a consequence, Mr Kutbi can no longer write books or articles for Saudi newspapers. "He wasn't a great writer," an acquaintance said.

He's looked at as rather a simple guy who is intellectually unimportant. But he was trying to compare the people who say they are in charge of morals with the ideals of Islam. Now he cannot work again."

Not that Mr Kutbi could be surprised at his treatment. Saudi Arabia's appalling human rights record is abetted by a totally unfair system of criminal justice.

Amnesty International has condemned the "summary procedures and secret practices" of the three-tier court system as well as hundreds of executions carried out after trials which failed all international standards.

Many of the victims were Indians, Pakistanis, Sri Lankans

or Nigerians who were publicly beheaded after Friday prayers in front of city mosques.

Foreigners have been arrested for practising the Christian religion, and flogging is routine: an Egyptian named Mohamed Al al-Sayid, convicted of robbery in 1990, was sentenced to 4,000 lashes.

In 1996, a Taif court sentenced two schoolchildren to 210 and 150 lashes after they allegedly hit a teacher.

All this has occurred in the country which the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, last weekend described as "a cornerstone of stability" in the Middle East.

Science reveals face of medieval warrior



Past perfect: A French scientist with a model of the face of a man killed 600 years ago, re-created using hi-tech imaging skills. Photograph: Le Figaro

By John Lichfield
in Paris

IT MIGHT be a face from a crowded restaurant or from the Metro in the rush-hour. In fact, the startlingly modern features are those of a French peasant who died, violently, 600 years ago, during the Hundred Years War.

His photographic resurrection is the result of an un-

precedented collaboration between French archaeologists and the forensic laboratories of the gendarmerie. The skull of the man, aged 40 to 50, was exhumed from the vaults of a church in Sainte-Colombe de Chevilly-Larue, in what is now the outer suburbs of Paris.

He is believed to have died a violent death, possibly in the interminable Anglo-French skirmishing of the period.

Using advanced techniques of computerised image-creation, never before applied to a subject of this kind, the police scientists fashioned a three-dimensional model of the man's head. Although similar facial models have been made from even more ancient skulls, the French scientists believe this is a first to be achieved with such a degree of accuracy and realism. The computer programs in

the gendarmerie laboratories were able to deduce, from the configuration of the skull, the precise size and shape of the man's eyes, nostrils and mouth and the contours of his face. Similar work was done on a second skull of a woman, aged about 30, producing a photographic re-creation of her face - also startlingly modern - without the use of a three-dimensional model.

Blair under pressure to settle rival claims for Euro bank post

By Katherine Butler
in Brussels

TONY Blair is faced with chairing an embarrassing showdown over who runs the European single currency next week, after finance ministers failed yesterday to resolve a worsening power struggle between the French and Dutch.

At talks in Luxembourg both countries dug in on their rival claims to the most powerful job in Europe, the presidency of the new European Central Bank.

The Dutch finance minister, Gerrit Zalm, said that for The Netherlands to back down would be "worse than losing to Germany in the World Cup".

Mr Zalm said the Dutch candidate commanded the support of a "massive majority" of European Union states and it would be unthinkable that he should now be "blown off the table".

The dispute means Britain, which holds the EU presidency and will chair next week's historic summit to launch the foundation of monetary union among 11 member states, is under pressure to avert a crisis.

"This is a big worry. It is a problem for all 15 member states, but it is up to the British Presidency, which is very objective, to solve the issue now," Mr Zalm said, as he left the talks.

The Dutch candidate for the post, Wim Duisenberg, head of the Bank's forerunner the European Monetary Institute, is up against the French central bank governor, Jean Claude Trichet. He emerged late last year as a surprise challenger.

Despite early speculation that Paris would back down, France has hardened its support for Mr Trichet in recent days. Lionel Jospin, the Prime Minister, threatened on Monday to veto Mr Duisenberg at the summit next week unless he agrees to split his eight-year mandate with Mr Trichet.

A senior European Commission official hinted that a deal could still emerge whereby Mr Duisenberg would agree to stand aside after the first four years of his term but there were no signals from the Dutch that this was a plausible outcome.

Gordon Brown the Chancellor of the Exchequer, chaired the Luxembourg meeting, the last opportunity for finance ministers to thrash out a deal before the crucial May summit.

He insisted that there was no legal obligation to settle choose a president before July when the European Central Bank is established.

But diplomatic sources from most countries believe that failure to agree on a candidate at the May summit would augur badly for future harmony within the Euro-zone.

In another sign of looming trouble over how the single currency should be run, the French yesterday raised strong objections to a German-led plan which would force all participating member states to sign up to hairshirt budgetary discipline for years to come.

Bonn wants to enforce the so-called "stability pact" which will penalise high-spending governments almost a year ahead of schedule. Ministers failed to agree the wording of a controversial draft declaration committing all Euro member states to fiscal discipline.

SWIFTCALL

LOW COST

10% DISCOUNT

Australia	18p	N. Zealand	27p
Germany	12p	Pakistan	72p
Hong Kong	27p	S. Africa	34p
India	50p	Thailand	72p
Ireland	10p	UK	5p
Japan	20p	USA	8p

Call us today for details on fantastic savings to hundreds of other destinations and how to open your pre-paid account.

0800 769 0033

Call 1800 794 381 if you live in Ireland.
1800 836 5005 if you live in the USA.

BUSINESS 0800 769 2222

THE INDEPENDENT

WIN a fabulous weekend break at Ockenden Manor in West Sussex

Take part in our unique competition and you could be enjoying a luxurious and revitalising weekend break at Ockenden Manor, a beautiful Elizabethan manor in Cuckfield, a charming Tudor village with views over the South Downs.

The prize must be taken by 31/10/98.

To enter this competition simply dial the number below, answer the following question on line and leave your name, address and contact number:

Q: Name the infamous Tudor King who was renowned for transforming the English church?

0930 563 564

Ockenden Manor is offering Independent readers a special rate of £85 per person, per night which includes luxury accommodation, full English breakfast and dinner in the restaurant with complimentary chocolates and liqueurs. This offer is based on two sharing a double/twin room for a minimum two night stay. Valid until 30/6/98, subject to availability. To book call Ockenden Manor hotel on 01444 416111, mentioning The Independent reader offer.

Your prize would include two nights luxury accommodation for two in a superior double/twin room, full English breakfasts, candlelit dinners in the award-winning restaurant plus liqueurs with coffee and chocolates as you retire.

THE FASTEST MULTIMEDIA SYSTEM AT A PRICE YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO MISS

TAKE THE NEW SUPERFAST INTEL 400MHz PENTIUM II PROCESSOR

ADD IT TO GATEWAY'S SENSATIONAL 66-400 MULTIMEDIA SYSTEM

HOLD THE PRICE TO AN UNBEATABLE £1549 (ex. VAT & Delivery)

The system above is just one example of what Gateway 2000 can make for you. Our unique build-to-order method ensures that you get the very latest technology. For instance, the new Intel 400MHz Pentium II Processor with Intel 440BX AGPset increases the transfer of data between the processor and main memory, bringing you a more vivid multimedia experience. Find out more by calling 0800 39 2000.

66-400

- Intel 400MHz Pentium II Processor
- 64MB 100MHz SDRAM
- Intel 440BX AGPset
- 528KB L2 Cache
- 64GB 10ms Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 3.5" 144MB Floppy Disk Drive
- Microsoft MSN 98 CD-ROM
- MSN AGP 3D Graphics Accelerator w/ 4MB DRAM
- Emsonline AC97 Waveable PCI Sound
- Rossini Acoustics MicroMedia SW Speakers with 15W Subwoofer
- US Robotics Sportster Winmodem with x2 Technology (56Kbps)
- 17" EV700 Monitor
- ATX Tower Case
- Microsoft Windows 95
- 105 Keyboard
- MS Windows 95
- MS IntelliMouse
- McAfee Anti-Virus Software
- MS Internet Explorer 4.0
- MS Home Essentials
- Choice of a Gateway Software Bundle: Acrobat, Source or Young Scholar

£1549 (£1854.15 inc. VAT & Delivery)

Gateway 2000 Showroom • 10 Bedford Street • Covent Garden • London WC2E 9HE

0800 39 2000
http://www.gateway2000.co.uk

GATEWAY2000
"You've got a friend in the business."

By Teresa Poole
in Poland

WHILE China's exiled dissident Wang Dan is relishing his new-found freedom in the United States, another Wang has been arrested, charged and sentenced to two years in a labour camp for "disturbing the social order".

The alleged "crime" of Wang Tingjin, 43, a mathematics teacher in central Anhui province, was to meet a US-based democracy dissident who secretly entered China in February to help set up an opposition group.

This Mr Wang's misfortune is to be unknown to the wider world - which means he can be summarily sentenced to "re-education through labour" without threatening Sino-US relations in the run-up to President Bill Clinton's planned visit at the end of June. He

is the third dissident to be sentenced within the past month.

Wang Dan's parole on medical grounds on Sunday was a sweetener for the Clinton visit, and that of Ma Robinson, the United Nations human rights commissioner, who is provisionally scheduled for an early June appearance in Peking.

Hong Kong-based human rights group say Wang Tinglin was arrested on 14 April and sentenced without trial the same day. Yang Qingheng, a Shanghai campaigner for free unions, was sentenced to three years' labour last month, and Shen Liangdong, from Anhui, to two years this month.

Human rights groups fear the high-profile release and exile of China's most famous political prisoners obscures the fate of less well-known political activists.

Jonathan Mirskey, page 17



Flag waving: China's decision to free Wang Dan was a sweetener for President Clinton's forthcoming visit. Photograph: Reuters

By Mary Dejevsky
in Washington

LAWYERS for Microsoft and the US Justice Department were back in court yesterday this time the appeal court - in the latest round of their battle over the computer market.

The government says Microsoft sought to use the dominance of its Windows software to squeeze out competitors in the market for browsers, which give access to the Internet. Microsoft says the authorities are trying, illegitimately, to dictate the terms of its innovation and development.

Internet Explorer as a condition of buying the new-ubiquitous Windows software—and then promote it. While Microsoft continues to argue that technically it is in the right, it has quietly conceded some of the marketing points.

It is sending contracts not only to US customers but also in Europe, where there have been similar complaints, so that computer-makers are no longer required to take the Internet Explorer browser exclusively. Most recently Microsoft has also said it will permit computer-makers to have a system that does not automatically display the Explorer icon when Windows is



Bill Gates: His empire is seeking a better image

Internet Explorer browser, saying it is fully integrated into the Windows program and that without it Windows would malfunction. It also contended, on the basis of intercepted electronic mail messages, that Prof. Lessig was biased against Microsoft and should be replaced.

The Justice Department argued that its complaints are less about technology than about marketing and specifically about Microsoft's requirement that computer-makers accept the

first switched on. No ruling is likely on yesterday's appeal for three months.

But it is clear that this time will be used by both sides to gear up for the greater battle: for the hearts and wallets of the buying public. Microsoft, worried that it is being branded by consumers as just another big business in pursuit of a monopoly, is engaged in a campaign to represent its case to Congress and the media.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — New name, new director — same smell. San Francisco's largest medical marijuana club was due to reopen yesterday with cosmetic changes designed to get around an eviction notice.

Dennis Peron, founder of the Cannabis Cultivators Club, and his followers complied on Monday with the eviction order won by the state attorney general, Dan Lungren. Even as he ordered the club to be vacated, San Francisco Sheriff Mike Hennessey said he was sympathetic to the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. He said he would not move against the club's successor agency, the Cannabis Healing Center, and its new director, Hazel Rogers.

Ms Rogers, 78, who smokes marijuana to treat her glaucoma, said: "I'm sort of apprehensive. I never ran anything before except a family. Well, I ran an office once. I don't know what to do."

Mr Peron started the club four years ago and was a prime mover behind the successful 1996 drive for the state's medicinal marijuana law, which allows sale of it to patients for medical use. The order to close the club was based on sales to care-givers rather than patients.

Mr Peron called it a technicality that Mr Lungren seized on, but took responsibility for the error. The two also are seeking the Republican gubernatorial nomination.

By Sam Jary

IT COULD be several days before investigators discover why Air France Flight 422 crashed into a Colombian mountain range on Monday, killing all 53 people on board, an Air France spokesman said yesterday.

As heavy rain continued to hamper police and rescue workers recovering the bodies, a Foreign Office spokesman said there was an unconfirmed report that a British national had been killed in the crash.

The Boeing 727, a former Lufthansa aircraft which was less than 20 years old, was leased from TAME, an Ecuadorian airline, and flown

by retired pilots from the Ecuadorian air force. Martin Gonzalez, a civil aviation spokesman, said the jet crashed in broad daylight about 150th short of the 10,000-ft summit only three minutes after take-off from El Dorado airport.

The wreckage of the Boeing was scattered over half a mile of mountainside just above the capital city. Its flight recorder, or black box, has been found and is being examined for clues to the accident.

Most of the passengers killed were Ecuadorian, but six French, four Danish and six Italian citizens, including two on their honeymoon, are also among the dead.

Fancy a stretch in the South of France? Well, test drive a Renault Mégane and that's just where you may end up!

The stylish, beautifully-equipped Mégane has been making headlines ever since it appeared. Hardly surprising,

when all models now boast
power assisted



steering as standard — not to mention an engine immobiliser and driver's airbag.

But now things are really looking up. Because just test driving the Mégane hatchback or Mégane Classic saloon before May 22nd will mean your name goes into a prize draw - with the top prize a luxury Allez France holiday for four in glorious Provence.

The winner and family or friends will enjoy a week to remember at a superb, specially selected villa, with stunning views, a private garden and its own swimming pool. Channel

crossings for a car and its passengers are also part of the prize.



































Ten runners-up will each receive travel bag and vanity case luggage sets. So don't lounge around. Take off for your Renault Dealer now, and arrange to test drive the Mégane. Prices start at just £9,995, the great Renault Freeways offers* are still available - and who knows what may turn up out of the blue?

For more information about
the prize draw or your nearest
Renault Dealer, call 0800 52 51 50.



RENAULT

THE RENAULT MÉGANE FROM £9,995

THE KENALUI MEGANE                                  

WORLD COVER

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE
CALL US ON 0800 365 121

هكذا من الأهل

Shock treatment in a story for little horrors

Adrian Turpin takes a peek behind the scenes as a children's nightmare hurtles into life

IT BEGAN as a treat but spawned nightmares for generations of children. In 1844 Heinrich Hoffmann, a Frankfurt doctor who worked in a lunatic asylum, thought he would buy his three-year-old son a book for Christmas. "But what did I find?" he lamented. "Long tales, stupid stories, beginning and ending with admonitions like 'The good child must be truthful' or 'Children must be clean'." Which is how Hoffmann came to write one of the most famous children's books ever, the collection of cautionary tales known as *Struwwelpeter*.

Hoffmann, who had a reputation for treating his mentally ill charges with unusual kindness, wrote and illustrated stories initially to calm children who saw the doctor as a bogeyman. But, reading the stories, most of which end in the violent deaths of disobedient infants, you wonder whether the doctor did more harm than good to his young patients.

The Freudian had dream that is "Little Suck-a-Thumb" graphically describes the "great, long, red-legged scissorman" punishing young Conrad: "Oh! Oh! Oh! Snap! Snap! Snap! They go so fast that both his thumbs are off at last... Augustus, who won't eat his soup, starves to death. Flying Robert's only misdemeanour is to walk out in the wind. He is blown away on an umbrella and never seen again."

When, decades later, Hilaire Belloc wrote his *Cautionary Tales*, he included the story of Matilda who "fired" fire, so often, that when her house did catch light no one believed her. In *Struwwelpeter*, retribution tends to be swifter and more cruel. Hoffmann's Harriet plays with matches and simply burns to death. The illustrations show, first, the girl in her pinafore, huge flames shooting from her back, and, second, two cats sobbing into handkerchiefs before a pile of cinders.

These days, it's not easy to find a copy of *Struwwelpeter*, and certainly not in the children's sections of bookshops. But the theatre, it's good to see, is made of sterner stuff. Tonight, Cultural Industry's splendid stage version of Hoffmann's book comes

to the Lyric Hammersmith. *Shockheaded Peter*—adapted a just opera for boys and girls—has been almost three years in the making.

The starting point was a collection of songs based on Hoffmann's rhymes. Performed by the cult London band the Tiger Lilies, they married gypsy-like melodies with the unearthly falsetto of the singer Martyn Jacques. The original idea was to get different performers to interpret each song. When that didn't work, producer Michael Morris approached Julian Crouch and Phelim McDermott.

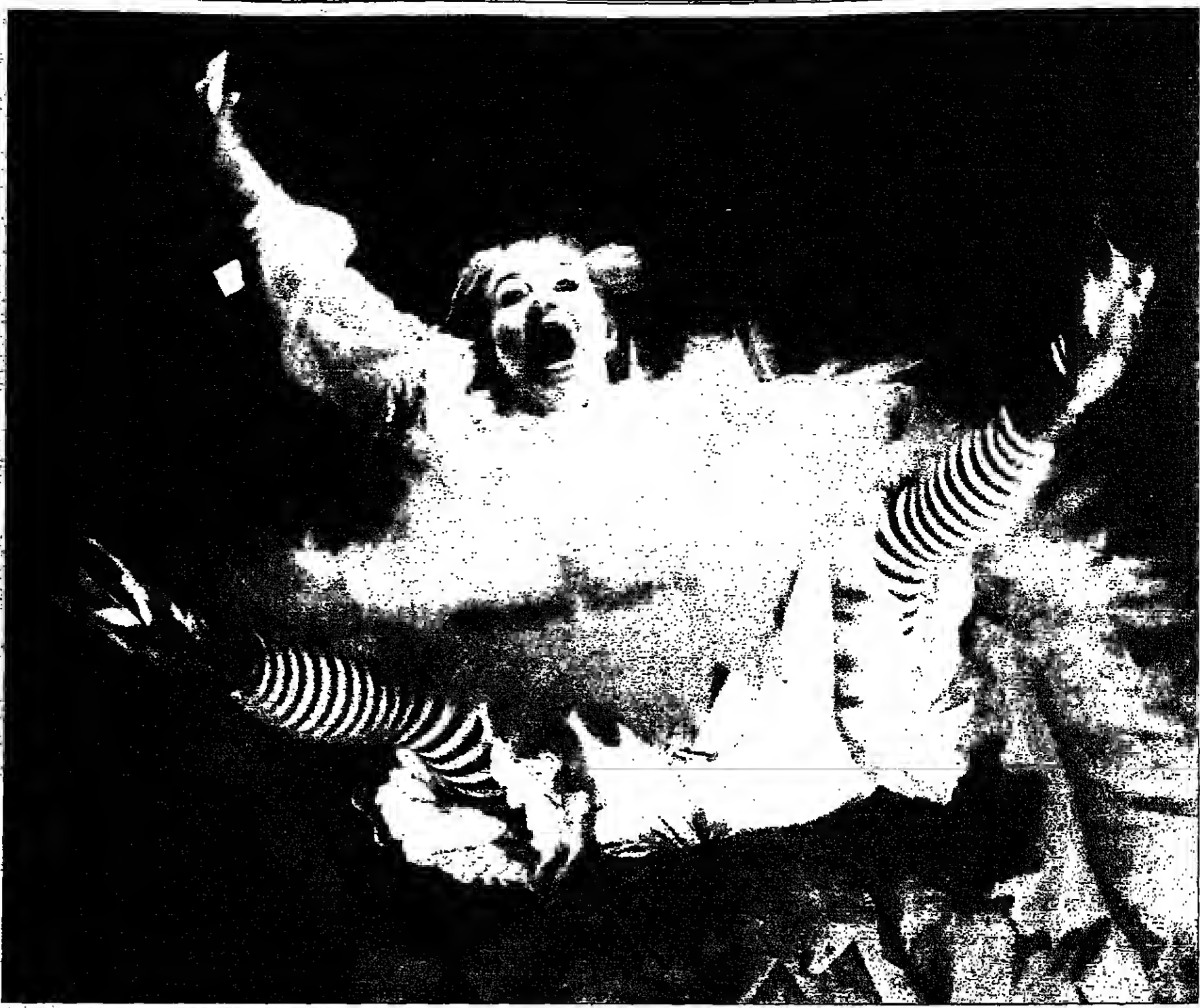
Two of the most innovative director-designers working in Britain, Crouch and McDermott have built a reputation for shows as emotionally satisfying as they are visually stunning, like last year's *70 Hill Lane*, a tale about a poltergeist that haunted McDermott's childhood home. They employed countless roles of Seltotape to create a house, a ghost, even a post. McDermott's grandmother. One critic described it as "*Blue Peter* meets *Blue Velvet*". Before that they had gone through a wicker period, using laundry baskets to bind the tales together. The breakthrough came, they say, when they stopped focusing on children and started working on parents.

"I've got a couple of kids," Crouch says, "and I was going through a separation, so I was very interested in parenting. But we also read a book by Robert Bly, who wrote *Iron John*, called *The Shitty Society*, which is about the lost art of being parents. What he says is that nowadays we are all children bringing up children, and one way he does

it is by looking at a lot of fairy tales. It gave us something to link everything together."

Using a technique called "one word", in which a group of people assemble a story together by each writing one word at a time, they came up with the connecting narrative of *Shockheaded Peter*.

"We wrote about a very wealthy couple who have everything," Crouch adds, "happiness, good looks, money and a beautiful house, but they don't have a child. So then we had them having a kind of mutant, and we ended up with this dark story where they bury the child and hide it under the floor. And that's very exciting, because you



Leap of imagination: Tamzin Griffin (above) in the cautionary *Shockheaded Peter* and (below right) a photo-composite of the show's cast

Photographs: Gavin Evans

know as soon as they bury it that that can't be the end."

But, if *Shockheaded Peter* is about himself, it's also about putting on a show, a process that directors often compare to being a parent. Crouch and McDermott have set the play inside a Victorian theatre, with cardboard cut-outs and wobbly scenery. The master of ceremonies (brilliantly played by Julian Bleach) is an actor-manager who looks like the child-catcher in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, and the spectacle he is putting on, with its monstrous child and violent punishments, is essentially a freak show.

"You have this incredible amount of pathos from this man who thinks he's the greatest actor in the world, but somehow feels that he's failed because it's not quite as good as he thought it would be," says Crouch. "I suppose a lot of the show is about being a failure but being beautiful at the same time. That's certainly true if you look at the picture of Peter from the original book. He's meant to be a monster, and the text says how filthy he is, but actually his face is angelic."

There's a lot of that in *Shockheaded Peter*. It has beautiful moments even when it's at its most horrific or ridiculous. You could say that that's the same with everything I do with Phelim and Lee. We're interested in the beauty of failure: how... it gets you to the point where you enter something more sublime." Or, as McDermott puts it: "Improvisation is an area where you've got to accept that you're going to be shit."

But, if you can deal with it, you discover new things. You go rubbish, rubbish, but the two rubbish steps are towards something new and exciting."

That is certainly how *Improbable's* other new show, *Lifegame*, seems to work. It's what they call "theatrical biography", an idea borrowed from the Canadian improviser Keith Johnston. Each night a guest is interviewed on stage. Scenes from their life are then improvised by performers. That may sound like a cross between *In The Psychiatrist's Chair*, *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* and *Orphan*, but McDermott takes issue with that.

"People think it might be dangerous because it's messing with people's heads, but it's such a public arena. You want some emotion but that doesn't mean people breaking down. If you were going to abuse someone's trust, you're doing it in public and the audience could turn on you. I'd rather say it's just storytelling which is the basis of therapy anyway. That's probably why therapy exists, because in society storytelling has been lost really: it's been turned into *Cats*."

If only poor *Shockheaded Peter* had had a chance to express himself that way, he might not have grown up to be such a monster. *Shockheaded Peter* is at the Lyric Hammersmith until 9 May (0181 741 2311) then at Glasgow Tramway, *Lifegame* is at the Purcell Room, London (14-17 May), Newcastle Playhouse (10-13 June), Theatre Royal, Bath (16-20 June) and Lyric Hammersmith (22-27 June).



Boogie on back to Seventies wonderland

James Rampton on a show celebrating the decade that taste forgot

THE 1970s were cool, proclaim the eager hypesters for the stage-show of *Saturday Night Fever*, which opens next month. They were all about glitz, glamour, glitter, and a white suit so sharp you could cut your finger on it. Er, not if you were from Manchester, rather than Manhattan, weren't. In Britain, the 70s were not so much trendy as irredeemably naïf. I mean, how else can you explain The Bay City Rollers?

Boogie Nights - The Musical is Britain's antidote to *Saturday Night Fever* and all its "the 1970s were chic" propaganda. A new show unconnected to the film of the same name, *Boogie Nights* is currently touring the country in preparation for a West End run in the autumn. Jon Conway, its writer and director, is quick to emphasise that the show is very much set on this side of the Atlantic—it's the 70s of the power cut rather than the power wardrobe.

"Our catchline is: 'The 70s didn't just happen in America'," Conway says. "The biggest roar in the show is when someone rides on stage on a Raleigh Chopper. I can't see any self-respecting American musical using a Raleigh Chopper—they'd

have a Hell's Angel on a Harley Davidson. That's the difference between the two countries. We just have this tremendous sense of irony—even when something terrible happens. Dunkirk was our finest hour, after all."

He goes on to explain why the 1970s—at least for the British—remains the decade that taste forgot. "The great 70s icons were football terraces and hooliganism, *On the Buses*, crap cars whose fanbelts always used to break, scratched records which hissed just before they started, and lino. Also, everyone used to make lists all the time. Nick Hornby's book, *High Fidelity*, got that exactly right. You'd make a list of the best five girls you'd ever kissed. Today, that would be too uncool—and you wouldn't talk about it unless you were selling it to the *News of the World*."

With the success of films like *Boogie Nights* and *The Ice Storm* and the return of such period TV classics as *The Sweeney*, *The Professionals*, and *The Wombles*, 1970s nostalgia is suddenly big box-office. Retro-chic equals mega-cheques. Just



Nostalgia trip: 'The 1970s are all about escapism'

look at all those "homage" adverts to 70s pop shows. Producing a feel-good musical stuffed with hits from the period—"Boogie Wonderland," "I Will Survive," "Sister Sledge Love," "YMCA," "Celebration," and "Play That Funky Music"—Conway is tapping into that mania for all things 70s. "When you reflect on the 1970s they were actually quite

ugly, but we look back on them through rose-tinted spectacles. There were tower blocks and the three-day week, but now all those things almost seem comforting—nostalgia always does that. We've forgotten the Winter of Discontent and corpses not being buried and just remember guys in furx jump suits like Marc Bolan and Sweet. The 1970s are all about escapism. We all need to be able to escape into fantasy."

He claims that people also had more fun in the 70s—only have to look at the clothes to realise they had a lively sense of humour. Conway rationalises the flapping flares and pavement-sized lapels thus: "They say a good guide to the economy is the width of people's lapels. After the Second World War, in a time of austerity, they were very thin. Then after the 'white heat of technology' in the 60s and into the 70s, they got much wider. That's my highly thought-out guide to the country's prosperity."

People were more exuberant, too, Conway reckons (although the nostalgia factor

could again be playing tricks with the memory). "Look at *Are You Being Served?* In the 70s, all the sitcom characters were larger than life. Now they're all right-on and PC. The 70s had great characters—not only in sitcoms, but in life itself. Take footballers. Now they're all so correct, but in the 70s there were players like Stan Bowles. He'd get pissed before the match and trip up over his shoelaces, but he was still a terrific hero."

A cheery happy with a very down-to-earth view of theatre, Conway has no pretensions about *Boogie Nights*. He is aware that the show is never going to win Olivier Awards for sophistication. "If you don't want to laugh, you shouldn't come to the party. The arty critics will come to *Boogie Nights* and say, 'but is it art?' The answer is, 'no, it's entertainment', and entertainment and art aren't always the same thing. We have some salient things to say, but we never let that get in the way of people having a good time."

"*Boogie Nights - The Musical* is at the Theatre Royal, Norwich (01603 622 777) and then touring nationally."

THE INDEPENDENT Personalized Luggage Straps

FROM ONLY
£7.95 INC P&P

Make sure your luggage is extra secure and easy to identify with these personalized luggage straps. Ideal for making your suitcase and travel bags easy to spot whilst reducing the risk of someone else accidentally picking them up. The straps can be personalized with your name or any other wording you require up to a maximum of 18 letters.

Ideal for suitcases, boxes, large items and bags, the straps are made from extremely strong webbing which will not easily rip or tear, giving added security to your belongings in case your suitcase is damaged in transit. Adjustable in length, the straps measure 180cm (68in) long and will have your name repeatedly woven into the webbing. They also have a tough, twist action lock and an integral address tag. Each strap is available for just £7.95 inc p&p or save money on a pair (in different names if required) at £14.90 inc p&p. Don't wait until you are about to go away, order yours today!

Please ensure your name is written clearly to avoid any errors in personalization.

HOW TO ORDER

Complete and send to: THE INDEPENDENT LUGGAGE STRAP OFFER, J.E.M. HOUSE, LITTLEMEAD, CRANLEIGH, SURREY GU8 8ND.

We deliver to addresses in the UK only. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Return within 7 days for refund if not completely satisfied. Offer subject to availability.

Please send me:
— Luggage Strap @ £7.95 each inc p&p.
— Pairs of Luggage Straps @ £14.90 each inc p&p
Name personalization:
I enclose a crossed cheque/postal order (address on the back) made payable to: NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING INC 278 or please debit my Mastercard/Visa account with the sum of £
My card No. is: Expiry date:

Mr/Ms/Miss: Address:

Postcode: Signature:

Sent to: THE INDEPENDENT LUGGAGE STRAP OFFER, J.E.M. HOUSE, LITTLEMEAD, CRANLEIGH, SURREY GU8 8ND.

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive future mailings from NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING INC or from companies approved by NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING INC.

IND278

The bride wore a dress to impress

The average price of a wedding dress last year was £689. On top of that, the headdress, veil, shoes and accessories came to £284, making a grand total of £973 for the wedding outfit alone. Getting hitched is an expensive business. However, the amount you spend on your wedding dress does not determine how

fabulous you look on the day. A dress can fulfil your dreams whether you pay £200, or the equivalent of a healthy deposit for a house. Tamsin Blanchard chooses between three price ranges: the vintage, the traditional and the outrageously expensive fantasy made to fit both you and your dreams.



Holly Wood, £200

Holly Wood, (yes, Holly's husband's name is Steve Wood), 23, was married last Saturday in a vintage Sixties cocktail dress from Steinberg & Tolkein on the King's Road, London. Her cream-satin, glass-beaded dress cost £190. She added a pair of second-hand Pied à Terre shoes from Greenwich market, a bargain at £5.

"I KNEW I wanted an old dress and had a list of shops to work through, including Coraucopia and Alfie's Market. The problem with old dresses is they are usually in really bad condition. When I went to Steinberg & Tolkein, however, one dress really stood out. It was cream satin with a glass-beaded bodice, slim fitting and to the ankle - a bit Audrey Hepburn as Holly Golightly in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*."

"The thing about wearing a second-hand dress is you know that someone else has loved it and that makes you love it too. The dress wasn't specifically a wedding dress but reminded me of last summer's Prada collection. It makes me feel like a chandelier because the beads are very swingy. I feel as though I should have a cigarette holder when I wear it. I wanted something sexy but I didn't want to show off my cleavage - it's just not right for a church."

"I was told I could get the dress dry-cleaned, but I went to four dry-cleaners and no one would take the responsibility. One place quoted me £100 but still wouldn't do it. They thought the beads would melt. In the end, my mum handwashed it which took away some of the stiffness and sheen of the satin. I starched it and that's given it a new sheen. After the wash, the fabric around the hem literally dissolved so I had to shorten it and decided on just below the knee. It's quite 'cocktail hour' so it was perfect for the informal reception after the ceremony. There are a lot of different occasions you have to go through all in one day: the formal church wedding which is a sober affair; the wedding pictures; the meal - we served fish and chips and trifle - and then the party."

"I can only wear this dress once because it's old and frail. To make it fit - women were different shapes then than they are now - I had the armholes lowered, the bust taken out, and the hips taken in. In the Fifties, you would have worn a corset. I bought a fantastic bra from Rigby & Peller. It cost £35 but was well worth it for a slight Fifties pointy look."

"My shoes were £5 from Greenwich market. They are pale grey suede with a diamante strap. I was prepared to spend £300 on a pair of shoes but I just couldn't find anything I wanted. I was after kitten heels with a closed toe because I didn't know if it was going to snow, hail or shine. The second-hand Pied à Terre find was just perfect. It was quite an eclectic look."



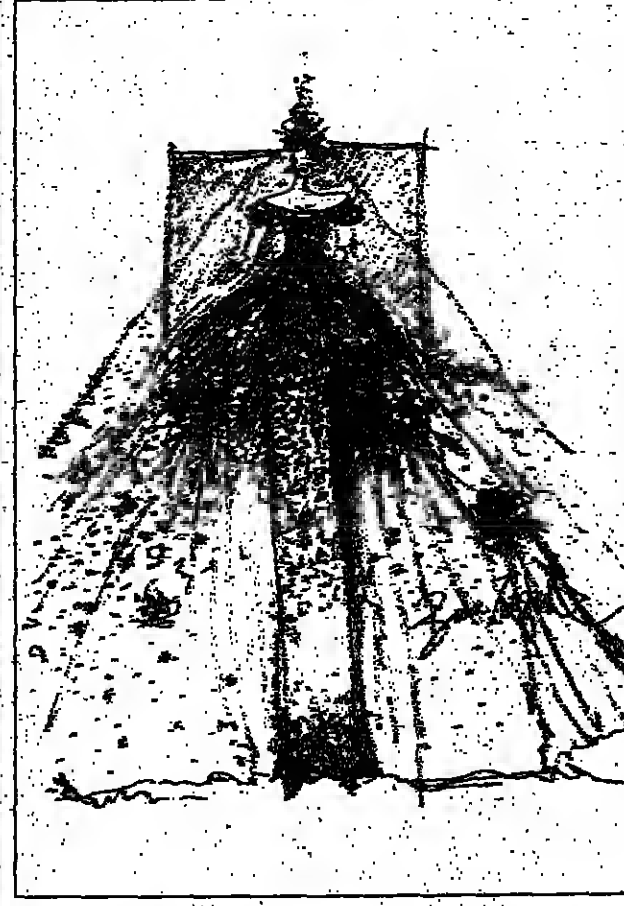
Helen Vasiliou, £2,000

Helen's dress cost £1,700, but came to around £2,000 with alterations. She shopped around at Liberty and Neil Cunningham but finally found the perfect dress from Caroline Castiglione in Berners Street, London. It was by David Fielden. Helen was married at All Saint's church in Camden Town, north London, three weeks ago.

"£2,000 was well over what I wanted to spend. And I wasn't going to go for a full dress. I'm 4ft 11in and wanted something simple. I tried on a lot of dresses but kept going back to the David Fielden. It had a tightly fitted, boned bodice in Mercat silk with a multi-layered tulle underskirt and a short train. It had a very flat bow on the waist in front. It was very Sixties. I was a bit disappointed with the finishing. The tulle underskirt wasn't properly attached to the bodice so my mum had to make it secure."

For £2,000 I thought it would be perfect. It was very well fitted though and was really comfortable. I didn't have to pull it up once."

"When I walked down the aisle, I just looked straight ahead at my fiancé to see his reaction. You feel like a queen. A friend said I looked like the cat that got the cream. I'll have it cleaned and vacuum packed and it'll go in the loft. It's a lot of money and it'll never be worn again which was a shame. I don't think any dress justifies that money. But I felt lovely and very special."



Basia Zarzycka, £20,000

Basia Zarzycka runs a couture wedding gown business from her shop on the King's Road in Chelsea, London. She includes a pair of hand-made shoes, bag, jewellery, veil and tiara in the package and prices start at £4,500 and go up to £25,000. Her dresses are the stuff of dreams and fantasies, the ultimate fairytale wedding experience. Basia has a six-month waiting list, employs 26 staff and can only work on between 20 and 30 dresses at a time.

"We make the dress from beginning to end. The dress grows with the client. When the bride comes to us they could be royalty, or Jill Smith from down the road, but they all have one thing in common: they have a dream, a fairytale fantasy that they want brought to life."

"We have 600 tiaras to choose from. We do the whole outfit from top to toe, all included in the price. The shoes are made with a beechwood heel and we make a toile for the shoe as well as the dress so everything fits like a second skin. We use the finest chantilly lace, and the best specialist fabrics. A dress usually takes around four fittings to perfect, but the bride won't see the actual fabric until the second fitting. Corsets are our speciality. We use up to 21 panels per corset and we love hand beading. Our dresses are inspired by the eighteenth century and are very elaborate and baroque. We do modern corsets as well. The dress in the sketch is made of old white grand duchess satin from Bucoli in Paris, embellished with chantilly lace and hand-tooled Victorian roses in gold. The corset has 21 segments and is decorated with seed pearls, Austrian crystals and antique sequins. There is also a matching bag and chantilly lace shoes, a tiara and a Cathedral-length lace veil which is 3 metres long."

As wedding venues get more unusual - castles and stately homes - women are moving back to a fantasy, ethereal look. They want their dress to be as splendid as possible. We really hold their hand - bring out their personality."

I don't know what happens to the dresses after the marriage is over. I have never seen one go on the market for sale. I've heard that some of the clients have glass display cabinets made for the dress and glass domes made for their shoes."

We don't always do white dresses. We listen to the client's vision and fantasy and put it into reality."

I haven't been married yet, but I have my own fantasy. It's a secret until a year before my marriage. I won't make my own dress - it's bad luck."

OUT OF THE CLOSET

Diana Laurie,
jewellery designer
and founder of
Wild Jewels for
Brazen
Bodies reveals her
eclectic wardrobe
secrets

"I AM one of those jewellery designers who doesn't wear a lot of jewellery, and when I do, I prefer to wear just one stunning thing. I think that is why my tiaras are so popular because they are full of sparkle."

"I love beautiful clothes, and I am a particular fan of Christa Davis, she has a fantastic studio in Portobello. We are almost twins in our sense of colour, she has these wonderful rails of clothes in beautiful colours, they



remind me of my favourite painter, Mark Rothko. I bought a gorgeous full-length fuchsia and orange dress from her, out on the bias, with little straps. I generally layer it with a lilac chiffon overdress, which has little silver sequins. It is a slightly gypsy-like look, but it's also very glamorous. "I am also a huge Vivienne Westwood fan. I have a beautiful silk jersey sleeveless top by her... it's very 1940s, which is one of my favourite eras."

"There are so many things that I could never get rid of. I still have the dress I made myself for my 20th birthday bash. It is a gold satin number, based on the dress that Marilyn Monroe wore to the premiere of *Let's Make Love*, with a bow on the bum... I also have a really fabulous Kitty Pury bag, a little silver rucksack, with silver wings on. I truly love it, it makes me feel like an angel."

Kate Lloyd

HOT THING

Fashion
photographers
who do
weddings



WEDDING photographs can be so boring. "There's me and him - there's me and mum, there's me and the bridesmaid." Stop. What about hiring top catwalk photographers who work for *Marie Claire*, *Vogue*, or *IT*?

It is possible. Sean Cunningham (he does the catwalks of Milan, New York, Paris and London for *Vogue*) and Mitchell Sams (*Marie Claire*) have been photographing weddings as a team for three years. What they bring to the day in contrast to a traditional wedding photographer is a dogged determination to capture every possible moment, both in reportage and traditional style, from two hours before the wedding, until the bride and groom leave on their honeymoon.

This is come hell or high water, the same tactic employed at the catwalk shows. "It's the ability to get great pictures really quickly with-

out upsetting anybody," says Cunningham who has encouraged an entire family into an ancient tree for one shot, and even stripped down to waders and swimming trunks to snap another family standing on a rope bridge over the river Wye. "It is a service particularly appreciated by people who like good pictures," he adds.

The results are certainly unique, as the photographers - who work together to guarantee maximum coverage - respond to every possible event around them, and that means everything. At the end of the average wedding they have about 1000 pictures choose from. It isn't cheap, costing from £1,500 in fees, film and processing, but each picture will eventually be worth its weight in gold.

Call 0468 890 395 for enquiries.
Melanie Rickley

Milkado girls go everywhere

FREE POSTER: MONROE
Or many other sports stars
Win two tickets with...

THE CHOCOLATE BISCUIT YOU CAN SHARE ANYWHERE

Tickets are for entry to events only, and are subject to availability. For full terms and conditions or for free entry visit to Milkado Promotions, London SE8 9ES

هكنا من الأهرام

Sculptors sock it to the masses

Towns and companies are waking up to the value of public works of art, but, as Vanessa Thorpe reports, not everyone likes the idea

"BUT I THOUGHT this was going to be rude," said a citizen of Loughborough, Leicestershire, once the statue of a naked man wearing nothing but a sock and a strategically placed sycamore leaf was unveiled.

"I suppose I do quite like it," another bystander admitted.

For the sculptor, Shona Kinloch, standing nearby, this kind of response to her work was in happy contrast to the criticism voiced earlier in the month, before it had even been seen. In the circumstances, an element of bathos at the municipal viewing was positively welcome.

The contentious £23,000 statue called *The Sock*, now stands in Loughborough's pedestrianised town centre and takes the form of a burly man, with indeterminate features who is proudly poking out his be-socked foot for general inspection. The woolly sock, you should note, is not just any piece of clothing: this is a town with historical links with hosiery. The leaf's important, too.

"Well, he is in public, isn't he? If the work had been for a gallery I probably wouldn't have bothered with the leaf," explains Kinloch. "So you see, I was pandering to public taste a little."

Kinloch is one of a growing band of sculptors now regularly commissioned to create focal points for town centres or business headquarters, as Britain, borne on a tide of lottery cash, bravado, at last regains its sense of artistic purpose. Up and down the country, councils, corporations and private businesses are starting to see public works of art as the right way to raise their profile.

Yet both Kinloch and her fellow artist Anthony Gormley, creator of Gateshead's *Angel of the North*, have discovered that this renaissance is a mixed blessing. Not for either artist the fond

smiles and affection lavished on David Wynne, the animal sculptor who created the beloved *Boy and Dolphin* statue on London's Chelsea Embankment. Kinloch's *The Sock* has, like the *Angel of the North*, provoked a local row about the misuse of public money.

"People said the money should have been spent on home-helps," says Kinloch, who spent six months working on *The Sock*. "There is nothing I can do about home-helps. If someone in Government would sort that out, my life would be a lot easier."

A reliance on state funding is not the only way in which a public artist is vulnerable, though. Statues attract controversy and are often targeted by vandals. In the 1980s, a hulky bust of Nelson Mandela had to be removed from London's South Bank for some months after it was attacked. And earlier this month the sculptor Nathan David was deeply upset by gratuitous damage done to his bronze figure of Margot Fonteyn. The ballerina's statue, which stood near the site of her Surrey birthplace, was pushed over and all the internal rods were snapped.

For other public pieces, like Dublin's infamous *Floozie in the Jacuzzi*, there is only the ignominy of widespread ridicule.

It is easy to see why young sculptors might shy away from designing for public spaces. The dealers' gallery is much more suited to displaying installations and video walls. And there is certainly more artistic freedom that way.

"When you work with a local authority, they often want you to involve the history of the area," comments Kinloch. "Or else they want you to involve students. Both of these can be impractical and difficult."

But the organisations that support public commissioning in this country are determined that artists like Kinloch should not



Kinloch's *The Sock*: the leaf reflect public taste, the hosiery reflects history Photograph: Brian Harris

lose heart. "There is a dangerous drive by students away from public art at the moment," warns Colin Tweedy, chief executive of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts (ABSA). "All this video work can become too personal, I think. Art schools are moving away from reality."

Instead, Tweedy believes, Britain should concentrate on emerging from an era in which public art was "notoriously" neglected.

"We used to be quite good once, although it was always statues of generals or Queen Victoria," he says. "It is still not considered very British. Even with the *Angel of the North* there was a lot of criticism, whereas the Italians, for example, would just think it was good for the area. In Britain the reaction is to think 'we will be a laughing stock'."

Tweedy suggests a genuine growth of interest in public art has been partly inspired by the Millennium and partly by National Lottery cash. The ABSA, he says, is working with the Government to promote the idea that businesses should stop simply sponsoring opera and other one-off events.

"Public sculpture is permanent, and what's more, a mural on the side of a city underpass will help to prevent graffiti. A lot of local authorities are seeing that - Birmingham, for example, with its Millennium Square."

Sandra Percival, director of the Public Arts Development Trust, sees no need for any artist to change their style of work to have a public airing. On 23 May her trust is to launch an adventurous project called "Arts TransPennine" that will involve both conventional and avant-garde works and venues across the north of England.

"We are also funding an Irish project at the moment alongside the walkways at a Heathrow terminal. It includes video installa-

tions and will be seen by two-and-a-half million people a year."

Unexpectedly, the British Airports Authority has discovered an added value to this scheme - travellers' complaints about the length of walking time inside the terminal have dropped markedly.

In fact, the airports authority turns out to be one of Britain's keenest public art sponsors (its biggest popular success is probably Will Pye's striking metal cone at the centre of the spiral walkway at Gatwick).

Says Percival: "The BAA is very good, probably because one of its directors was once chairman of the Public Arts Development Trust. But there is a genuine interest and movement towards public art throughout all business sectors."

The method by which businesses should be induced to pay for art is not so easy to agree on. Tweedy sees value in the "Per cent for Art" system favoured abroad. This means that planning permission is granted with the proviso that, say, one per cent of building costs are spent on a public commission.

There would also be merit, he believes, in a structure of tax break incentives.

"We ourselves operate a matching grant scheme which can double the money a business gives," he explains. It has run since 1984 and it's called the Pairing Scheme. It allows us to give out up to £5m of Government money a year."

Sandra Percival is less sanguine about the worth of incentive schemes. "I don't think the best way is through mandating," she argues.

"It doesn't ensure adequate funding and it doesn't ensure an adequate work of art."

Formulas, she contends, are just as inimical to good art commissioning as they are to the creation of good art.

Leading article, page 16

A problem with tolerance

There's an alternative to a red-light area, but few dare discuss it, says Ann Treneman

VERONICA SEXTON has a problem and says she's not going to shut up about it until something is done. The problem can be seen every day from her beautiful bay window that looks on to one of Cardiff's leafier streets. There, against a backdrop of large Victorian family houses, the sex industry (or what passes for it here) is at work. Prostitutes, pimps and, lately, boys too. "The streets are littered with the physical evidence - condoms, needles - and they are quite openly doing business," says Mrs Sexton.

Julie has a problem too. She is 32, has six kids and hasn't been out on this street that is not so far away from Mrs Sexton's bay window since Christmas. But she needs some money. She understands why residents are angry. "You can't blame them. If I lived in this area I wouldn't like it. I wouldn't want it for my kids."

So what's the answer then? Julie shrugs. Business calls. This is the only place she can make decent money. So Cardiff has a problem. Mrs Sexton and her neighbours are not going to go away and neither are the Julies. What to do? There were reports that a specially formed working party had put forward the idea of creating a Dutch-style tolerance zone, where prostitution and kerb-crawling would be allowed. If it happens, it would be a first. The idea is being linked to next year's rugby World Cup when Cardiff will be bursting with men who may want something more than sport.

The idea may sound rather sensible, but the reality is anything but. The working party itself is a bit of a secret and would prefer to stay that way. Tolerance zone? Where had I heard that? Was I aware that absolutely nothing had been decided? The police aren't sure about the extent of the problem. Cardiff County Council sees it as too hot to handle. "Why would anyone want to get involved with that?" they whisper.

Councillor Lynda Thorne has an answer. Her phone rings a lot. Her constituents are frightened to walk home in case a car cruises by and they hear a voice, saying: "Doing business, love?" They do not like their children to play outside. Mrs Thorne called a public meeting. "I invited the police. They weren't very happy but I said that really this was a police issue, and not a council issue. Then I spoke to one of the police who was prepared to set up this working group."

This was 18 months ago. The group, which, curiously, seems



A prostitute in Cardiff. The city's problem is they won't go away, but where can they go? Photograph: Christopher Jones

to have no official status, is made up of health authority workers, Mrs Thorne, residents and police. A council official is helping to put together a report, apparently because the police couldn't provide anyone. Mrs Thorne repeats that she is not representing the council. It is all very sensitive, she says.

Take what happened when the tolerance zone idea hit the local headlines. Everyone started to speculate about the site for a zone and Mrs Thorne asked if she could look into this for the council. "They said 'You're not going to put it in my ward!'" That's what happens. The minute you raise it up, people are not interested in the principle. All they are interested in

is where it is going to be, and they don't want it in their ward so they'd rather the whole thing went away."

If you call Cardiff's Central police station, they deny there is a proposal for such a zone. But, a few miles away at Fairwater nick, they say there is such a proposal and invite me to go on patrol. I arrive on a wickedly cold night. Who would be out in such rain? The police think no one. Then the radio crackles with the news that a prostitute named Michelle has been arrested. She has failed to turn up for court appearances 18

side and the river on the other. At one end is a low brick wall that the girls, some as young as 14, sit on. It is thought that the bay women will be coming to the embankments soon.

The Taffs Mead area is particularly nice. This is where Veronica Sexton lives and where she raised her children. And this is where, even early on a rainy Friday night, there is no shortage of women looking for business and cars cruising by to provide it. A sad woman named Bel said she's lost track of her arrests. She likes working in a residential area because it makes her feel safer. Della, wearing a red PVC skirt, said she might give the zone a try, adding: "I wouldn't like this going on in front of my house."

These women are Jill Coles's clients. She works for the health authority as an outreach worker for prostitutes. Her card introduces her as "The Rubber Woman". She sits on the tolerance zone committee and describes herself as a realist: "Street prostitution will always exist. Unless you can actually modify men, then you are always going to have it."

The key, she says, is to make it as safe as possible. "It's not an easy thing to do, to change, and expectations for this zone shouldn't be too high. Punters may be frightened to start with and some women may think 'Why should I be told where to work?' But, if at the end of an agreed time, it isn't working, then we could stop it. Nothing is written in tablets of stone."

She is the only one who seems hopeful. Mrs Thorne believes the media attention has killed the proposal. The police say they cannot be tolerant because soliciting is against the law. The residents - who are split on the idea of a zone - say the girls blame life in general for pretty much everything. All these words and still, when Mrs Sexton looks out her front window, she doesn't like what she sees. It's a problem.

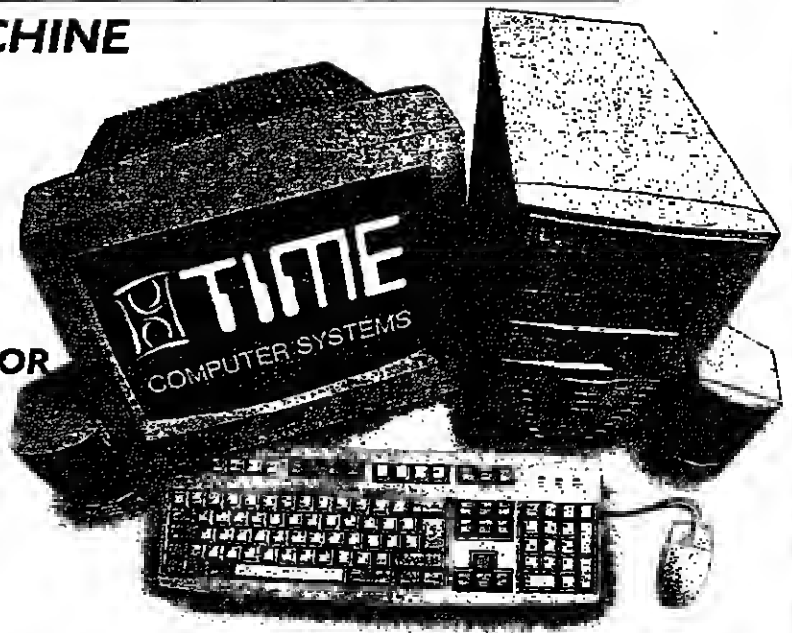
THE INDEPENDENT

WIN THIS HIGH SPEC MULTIMEDIA PC

THE TIME MACHINE
233M-2

COMPLETE WITH:

- PR233 PROCESSOR
- 64MB RAM
- 512K BURST CACHE
- 6.4 GB HARD DISK
- 15" COLOUR MONITOR
- KEYPAD
- SPEAKERS
- PC TV System
- WITH SOFTWARE, WORTH OVER £4,500!
- PLUS 10 RUNNER-UP PRIZES OF GREAT SOFTWARE PACKS TO BE WON



The Independent, in association with Time Computer Systems, the UK's leading direct PC supplier is offering readers the opportunity to win the fantastic 233M-2 PC, ready to run in your home or office. Each of the 10 runner-up software packs, includes Infopedia UK, Multipedia Bookshelf, Crompton's World Atlas and more, worth over £300 each.

For more information on the UK's best computer deals from Time Computers Systems, please call 0800 77 11 07, or better still, visit your local showroom for a demonstration.



TO ENTER: Simply fill out this coupon and send it to:

Time Computer Systems PC DRAW, PO Box 7294, London, E14 5DG. Entries close April 30.

Name (in full):

Address (in full):

Please answer this question:

On which page (number), in this edition of The Independent, is the Time Computer Systems Ad featured?

If you do not wish to receive any further information from Time Computers or Independent Newspapers (UK), please tick: ☐

Winners chosen at random after April 30th. Normal Independent rules apply. Editors decision is final.

THE INDEPENDENT

EDITOR: ROSIE BOYCOTT; EDITOR IN CHIEF: ANDREW MARR
DEPUTY EDITOR: CHRIS BLACKHURST
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000
FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171 345 2435
THE INDEPENDENT ON THE INTERNET: WWW.INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Blair's snake-oil democracy

WHAT DO MPs do all day? It's an unfair question, of course, because most of them work very hard – albeit on tasks which would make a strange definition of "work" for most of their constituents: sympathising, speechifying, looking serious, politicking.

But is it unfair for the Labour Party to dictate to its 417 MPs the terms and conditions of their employment? As we report today, the party is working on "contracts" which would set out what MPs are expected to do in terms of talking to and visiting their voters in return for support from party HQ. Above all, it would seem, Labour MPs are to be required to engage in a programme of "voter contact" which should see them on the doorsteps of their constituency for two hours every weekend and every day for two weeks when Parliament is not sitting in the summer. On the knocker or the phone, Labour MPs are expected to contact 100 new households on their patch every week. The maths of the petty dictators of Millbank Tower are impeccable: over the five-year maximum period between elections, that would amount to 26,000 households. Their politics, though, are faulty. MPs are, after all, employed by the people themselves, not by the party.

Of course, it is no use arguing that this is not what parliamentarians are used to. Everything, in the New Labour dawn, has to be justified afresh from first principles. Even so, the bossy management-school jargon emanating from Millbank has infuriated many Labour MPs – especially those elected before 1997, or those elected unexpectedly in seats which were not even on the party's target list. The more pompous among them mutter about parliamentary privilege. The older ones recall Tony Benn's attempted "loyalty pledge" in 1980, intended to commit every MP and candidate to every dot and comma of the National Executive's entire programme.

Both have a point, although we are not overly impressed. It is not a bad idea to set out more clearly what is expected of MPs. If we believe what we read in the papers, new MPs are suffering stress and anxiety simply because they do not know what their role is. Academic literature is full of learned articles on the growing volume of correspondence, the declining effectiveness of surgery work, the professionalisation of politics – all of which raises the question: what does democratic representation mean today?

Peter Mandelson, the Prime Minister's "minister for looking ahead", thought aloud interestingly about this at a seminar at the British embassy in Bonn last month. "It may be that the era of pure representative democracy is slowly coming to an end," he said. By implication he accused the western European elites of being out of touch with their electorates, especially on the question of European integration, and suggested they should rely more on opinion polls, focus groups and referendums – as New Labour had done.

This got up the noses of the Germans, but was of a piece with Tony Blair's pamphlet *Leading the Way* also published last month, which set out an ambitious programme of reform for local government, organised around the idea that local politicians should show "leadership" by opinion poll, local referendum and citizens' juries.

This is a strange notion of leadership, and points to a fundamental flaw at the heart of the New Labour idea of democracy. Mr Blair and Mr Mandelson are right that the old mechanisms are worn out, but there is an alarming tendency on their part to confuse democracy with marketing. We have seen it in the slow hollowing-out of Mr Blair's rhetoric, circa 1993-94, about a vibrant Labour Party, a democratic part of its local communities. Contrast that with the disappointing centralism of the system of closed party lists which has become Labour's default form of proportional representation – for the European Parliament, Scotland, Wales and London. It is quite extraordinary that the Conservative Party will have a more democratic system than Labour of choosing its MEPs next year. The Tories will decide the all-important ranking of candidates on the ballot paper by one member, one vote ballot; Labour will fix it in caucuses of regional delegates and officials.

In this light, it seems as if Labour MPs are being recruited to a vast exercise in the selling of Mr Blair's snake-oil (not to mention being kept busy to be better kept out of mischief). "Voter contact" does not sound like a genuine exercise in participatory democracy, more like highly structured and efficient soft soap.

We have too many MPs and they cannot all declaim majestically, with electric flashes of Wildean wit, of course, on the Great Issues of the Day all day and every day. Their pastoral role is important, but it must be a two-way contract between the people and their representatives.

What the people want from public art

"THERE IS nothing I can do about home helps. If someone in government would sort that out, my life would be a lot easier." Ah, the dilemmas of the modern artist. On page 15, Shona Kinloch tries to deflect criticism of her statue *The Seeker* in Loughborough. Some of the locals would rather have spent the £23,000 on getting meals on wheels to pensioners. Well, there will always be other ways of spending money than on art, even if "someone in government" ensured that everyone got the best home-help service possible. Ms Kinloch's life is not supposed to be easy; what is interesting is that she is one of a new wave of mostly rather folksy statutory paid for from the vast mountain of lottery money. Her figure in Loughborough, historic centre of hosiery (hence the footwear), contrasts with the abstract metal shapes that invite incomprehension and graffiti. The only way to deal with the home-help argument, in fact, is to make the sort of art people want. Even if it does mean that her male figure boasts a strategically placed sycamore leaf.



Sanctions on Iraq

ANDREW MARR (Comment, 21 April) sets out the case for abandoning sanctions against Iraq as a "cruel and utterly pointless" policy.

People often assume that sanctions are designed to overthrow Saddam Hussein. Not so. They are linked to the demands made by the Security Council after his invasion of Kuwait. These range from dismantling Iraqi weapons of mass destruction and Iraq's capability to rebuild them, to paying compensation to the victims of the invasion, to accounting for the over 600 missing Kuwaitis. Iraq could have complied in months. Instead, Saddam Hussein has defied the international community for over seven years.

The results for the Iraqi people have been truly terrible. But whose fault is this? Since 1991 we and other members of the Security Council have pushed to put in place arrangements which would allow food, medicines and other humanitarian assistance to flow freely to the Iraqi people. Saddam Hussein refused to allow this to happen until 1996. Even now, Iraqi co-operation is less than wholehearted.

There is a genuine dilemma about how to help the people of a country where the regime is intent not on relieving their suffering but on using the misery of its citizens as a political bargaining tool. It is a dilemma which has been addressed at the Humanitarian Meeting in London this week. There are no easy answers. But we and other concerned governments are determined to ensure that the Iraqi people receive the humanitarian assistance they need. Sanctions can be lifted – when Iraq finally complies with the Security Council's demands. Meanwhile, they are forcing Saddam to give up his horrifying arsenal of weapons of mass destruction and making him less of a threat to his neighbours and to his own people.

The premature lifting of sanctions, without Iraqi compliance with its international obligations would be short-sighted and highly destabilising for a region where Britain and the EU have vital interests. It is a battle of wills: the will of the international community to hold Saddam Hussein to less than wholehearted.

Richard Butler, heading the UN Weapons Inspectorate, is quoted as saying that Iraq has failed to give a "full and complete" statement regarding bio-weapons programmes – "They blew it" – again raising the possibility of a strike against Iraq (Andrew Marr, 21 April).

The list of sites visited by the numerous teams of experts since 1991 runs to thousands and frequently to far. In June 1997 a special team was flown from Washington to inspect a Catholic convent. The simplicity of the lives of the nuns is reflected in their

LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

his promises versus the will of a ruthless dictator. The outcome has implications which go far beyond Iraq. DEREK PATCHETT
Minister of State
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
London SW7

FOR the Kuwaiti embassy to send a cheque for £5000 to *The Independent's* Iraq appeal and to claim that "the international community as a whole has shown great concern for the Iraqi people" is cynical in the extreme (letter, 18 April).

Under "oil-for-food" (Security Council Resolution 986), 30 per cent of the money raised through the sale of Iraqi oil goes to the oil-rich emirate. A further 10 per cent pays for UN monitoring. Thus at least 40 per cent of the (in itself wholly inadequate) \$2 bn worth of oil that Iraq is permitted to sell every six months is being deliberately diverted away from providing humanitarian aid for the Iraqi people.

No country could reasonably be expected to surrender its principal national resource to an international body dominated by a power (the US) overtly and covertly committed to the overthrow of that country's government. GABRIEL CARLYLE
Junior Research Fellow
Magdalen College, Oxford

RICHARD BUTLER, heading the UN Weapons Inspectorate, is quoted as saying that Iraq has failed to give a "full and complete" statement regarding bio-weapons programmes – "They blew it" – again raising the possibility of a strike against Iraq (Andrew Marr, 21 April).

The list of sites visited by the numerous teams of experts since 1991 runs to thousands and frequently to far. In June 1997 a special team was flown from Washington to inspect a Catholic convent. The simplicity of the lives of the nuns is reflected in their

burial place. There are no inscriptions or headstones, just large square blocks of stone laid like a chess board, with a simple iron handle in the centre of each, with which to manoeuvre them into place. The inspectors probed the site extensively – after searching the nuns' bedrooms and even the convent roof. From a spy plane or satellite monitor, the site would look similar to a missile silo – except that the blocks are far too small.

I was in Iraq in December 1997 when Scott Ritter's fearless lads raided a creche – and in February when they searched an orphanage. When they went to the science department at Baghdad University, it was in such a pathetic state after seven years of sanctions, they laughed. And then threw out most of the few remaining books. Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? FELICITY ARBUTHNOT
London E9

Policing charities

AS HEAD of the statutory body charged by Parliament with oversight of the charitable sector I must correct what your report "Charities to be policed by new watchdog" (16 April) says about the Charity Commission's role and powers.

Our aim is to maintain public confidence in the integrity of charities and our powers to do this go far beyond "registering charities and receiving and checking their accounts". New powers effectively starting to operate this year are enabling us to increase the active supervision of registered charities in England and Wales.

The monitoring requirement, under which all registered charities with an income of over £10,000 a year must send us a report and accounts annually, is in its first cycle and going well. Contrary to your report this is an active process. We pursue issues of administration, financial control and legal integrity. We encourage good practice and seek to

prevent problems. However, where problems do arise, and in particular where there is deliberate abuse, we have – and use – very substantial powers to put things right.

The Charity Commission is not complacent, but I do not believe that there is evidence of falling public confidence in charities. The exceptional problems – which attract disproportionate public attention – and which we use our powers to remedy – do not justify undermining that confidence. The sector is not complacent either. There is an important national initiative, sponsored by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, to study ways in which standards of good practice may best be encouraged. We are co-operating closely with this initiative.

R J FRIES
Chief Charity Commissioner
Charity Commission
London SW1

Taken ill in America

NO ONE familiar with the American health system ("US hospital refused to help British girl who broke her arm", 20 April) would be at all surprised that a child could be denied hospital treatment without a cash deposit. American friends of mine took their niece to hospital in California with a badly broken arm and were refused entry because their medical insurance was not with the company owning the hospital. They were directed to a different hospital, 40 miles away through the mountains.

What is surprising about this incident, however, is that British tourists, accustomed to the National Health Service, continue to travel without insurance to countries with very expensive health care and apparently expect to receive treatment free of charge.

SUE KINDER
London N1

Techno-terror

SO "The Independent" is totally dependent on computers" (leading article, 17 April). Silly me – I thought it was written and produced by human beings. Your leader really is an insult to those of us who are terrified of computers, and regard them as neither indispensable nor straightforward to use. The attempts I have made to use these unfathomable machines have all ended in tears. Now I can even be excluded from studying for another degree, solely because I cannot participate in electronic wizardry. Some people even consider me, and the Prime Minister for that matter, to be thus not truly educated.

This letter is hand-written and sent via the Royal Mail – and thus presumably unfit for publication. DAVID LSEYMOUR
London SE4

A pole in the head

I WAS intrigued to see in your front page photograph on 21 April Tony Blair and Yasser Arafat as exemplars of the latest fashion in diplomatic dress code – the carrying of flagpoles on the head. And it was good to note that in the interest of suppressing nationalism the two leaders had swapped flags.

From a technical point of view, I would assume that Mr Arafat's pole is supported by a structure in his head-dress, but Mr Blair's appears to have no such apparatus – is the pole inserted directly into the skull? JULIE EVANS
Chesham, Buckinghamshire

Where the buck stops

DONALD DEWAR has emphatically revived the long-forgotten doctrine of the buck stopping at the top, in calling for the immediate departure of the Grampian Chief Constable. Dr Ian Oliver. Will his colleague Jack Straw take the same view in regard to Commissioner Sir Paul Condon if, as seems likely, the Stephen Lawrence inquiry finds similar incompetence in a murder case by the Metropolitan Police?

BOB RODWELL
Ballyhalbert, Co Down

Cool Britannia? Forget it – and build yourself a Crisp new style



MILES KINGSTON

I DON'T want to get drawn into this Cool Britannia debate, for the very good reason that there is no debate. There is nothing to talk about. Ben Elton is right. It's a load of nonsense. There is nothing there. One might as well discuss astrology or Atlantis, or Britpop, or argue about the accuracy of the X-Files. The whole thing is non-existent.

Right, that settles that, and we could all go home now, were it not for two things. One is that I have some more space to fill and it will look very odd if I stop this article here.

The other is the worrying impression I get from all this Cool Britannia thing that people nowadays think that style and fashion are the same thing. To read many magazines for both women and men you would think that the only way to be stylish is to be in the swim... have the right accessories... wear the right things and

go to the right places... be in the "in" crowd...

Well, that is the way to be fashionable. But there is nothing stylish about it. Style and fashion are two different things. Maybe they are opposites. Quentin Crisp always thought so. He once wrote a book called *How to Have a Lifestyle* – which I would call seminal if I had ever met anyone apart from me who had read it – in which he makes the irresistible point that a person who has style is someone who has established his own identity, cultivates it and sticks to it. Style comes from being yourself as far as you possibly can, and ignoring fashion.

Style, as Crisp said, is for people who know who they are. Fashion is for people who don't know or care who they are, and are prepared to let other people tell them who they are. Take hair loss. If you are fashionable, you fight against baldness using

any weapon you can. If you are stylish and you start to go bald, you shave your hair off and make your baldness stylish. Style is the opposite of fashion. Julian Clary has style. The Spice Girls have nothing in common with style. Stephen Fry has style. Peter Stringfellow...

I once saw Quentin Crisp doing his stage show at the Mayfair Theatre, inviting questions from the audience about life, and one man got up and said: "I have tried following all your advice, Mr Crisp, but I cannot get away from the fact that I am still a boring person. What should I do?"

"Cultivate your boringness," said Crisp. "Become the most spectacularly boring person in your circle. When people throw parties they should say, 'We must invite old so-and-so – he's so rivetingly boring – no party is complete without him!'"

But the hardest thing of all, said Crisp, was to execute a complete change of style,

from one spectrum end to the other. Having established yourself as a sinner or a fool, it is not easy to become a saint or a sage. Yet it is possible. In our own times we have seen Michael Winner go from being a film director to a man who no longer makes films, but is only a ubiquitous TV and radio guest – indeed, his reputation is now so firmly established as a ubiquitous guest that he no longer needs to turn up. I myself have heard his ubiquity referred to fifty times for every once I have actually seen him.

The examples are many. Michael Palin went from being a famous young clown to being a famous middle-aged traveller. Cilla Black was once a cheeky singing teenager and has completed the transition to everyone's favourite aunt. Perhaps the most extreme change of style in recent months was that of Janet Street-Porter. For years she was thought to be a totally urban fig-

ure, a media guru with outlandish spectacles, accent and legs. Suddenly she re-emerged as the head of the Ramblers' Association, for all the world like a tall country head perfect fighting for the sanctity of wild places. It was a wonderful, perverse transition, and in her series *Coast to Coast* nobody seemed to think it odd that this long-legged, trendily-bespattered, heavily Cockney sergeant-major can now be seen striding through the byways of rural England, not always, it has to be said, paying much attention to the countryside, or saying much about it.

The oddest change of style of all is that of Andrew Lloyd-Webber, who seems to be trying to establish a new image as a restaurant critic, which might be original if Rossini hadn't been so much better a cook and a chef all those years ago...

Good heavens – is that the time? See you tomorrow!



Let children do the important homework: Taking credit for idling, dreaming, being themselves failure in China



SUZANNE MOORE
ON LABOUR'S WORK ETHIC

ANYONE with any sense realises the value of making children do homework. Unless children were made to do homework they would never learn the skills essential to working life. They would not learn how to lie, to make excuses, cheat and feign illness. "The dog ate my exercise book, sir" translates in later life into car breakdowns, nervous breakdowns or computer breakdowns that will explain why you are late again.

David Blunkett, though, has done his homework and has now come up with a set of guidelines about just how much work children should be doing in their spare time. Some of this may be helpful. Many parents are genuinely confused about how much homework their children should be doing and are always demanding more of the awful stuff. These guidelines set out amounts for various ages. From the moment they set foot in school the should be doing ten minutes of homework a day. Now, we can call this palaver homework, and it can be set by an over-worked teacher, or we could just read them a bedtime story occasionally.

I always thought homework didn't

really start until you were at secondary school, and then only in the years when kids are being geared up to jump through various exam hoops. I am apparently wrong. Ten year olds should be getting regular homework. Mr. Blunkett said, "I am concerned that according to a National Foundation for Educational Research survey, 43 per cent of all ten year olds get no regular homework, yet over half of ten year olds spend three or more hours a night watching TV." Like so much Labour policy there is far too much concern with what people shouldn't be doing, because we know exactly what it that they should be doing: working.

This is the solution to every social problem. Work is good, no matter what kind. We must work whether we are single mothers, disabled or four years of age. Leisure is a waste of time. If children watch TV they are certainly getting the wrong idea, the idea being that they may organise their own spare time. You wouldn't want children sitting around doing nothing now, would you?

Well yes. Some one has to make the case for doing nothing. And if children aren't allowed to skive and daydream, what hope can there be for the rest of us? Most children already work all day at school and do some more in the evenings. My daughter who goes to a comprehensive in Hackney often works late into the night. She and her friends look exhausted. Do they really need to be doing this amount of homework, I ask myself.

That's fine, you might say. What about the kids who are not given homework, whose parents do not know or care if they do it? Surely Blunkett's lottery-funded, study support-centres are a good thing. Yes of course, though I suspect the average parent would prefer direct investment in education, rather than in the support structures outside of school.

As we pile the pressures upon chil-



Go on, supervise that homework Hulton Getty

dren, many of whom are exhibiting stress-related disorders, we should ask ourselves about the real value of homework. The skills that are increasingly in demand are visual, social and creative: the very skills that may develop precisely from having nothing to do. Adam Phillips, in his book *On Kissing, Tickling and Being Bored*, has written of the virtues of boredom for children; the mental space it provides out of which creativity may flow. Yet the relentless thrust of so much modern parenting is activity-centred, about doing rather than be-

time, and yet the capacity to do so will be denied to our children. Our anxiety also gives rise to certain misconceptions about what children do learn. There will always be some things, such as multiplication tables, that have to be learnt by rote. In other areas, such as literacy, skills do not necessarily develop in an orderly and linear fashion. In fact children make cognitive leaps at various stages and much to the chagrin of the flash-card wielding middle classes not a lot can be done to speed this up.

Teachers have explained to me that if teenage children do all their homework, it is the equivalent of an extra day at school a week. I have politely asked why children should work a six day week. If our children haven't enough time to be taught all that they need to be taught, why not make the school day an hour longer and let their free time actually be free. As *The Little Red School Book* said many moons ago: "As well as organising the time you spend at school, schools also try to organise some of your free time."

To be honest though, my concern about children being allowed time off is also rather selfish. If parents have to make contracts with schools, ensuring that their children produce enough work, parents themselves will have more to do in the evening, which is not a pleasant prospect.

If schools shift the burden away from themselves and on to parents, education becomes even more riddled with inequality. Blunkett and New Labour may wish to turn ordinary people into over-anxious, middle-class parents bravely struggling with encyclopedias and CD Roms they can't quite get to grips with. The kids who need the most help are bound to get the least, while their more affluent counterparts will suffer from hyper-stimulation. And who will teach them one of life's most important lessons: that you can be fulfilled and busy doing nothing?

Jonathan Mirsky examines Robin Cook's claims for his 'ethical foreign policy'

THE Foreign Office's Human Rights report, issued yesterday, is misguided but serious. But the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, made himself ridiculous after the report was issued by taking credit for the release of China's two most famous dissidents, Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan. Speaking on the BBC's *The World at One*, Mr Cook recalled that in January he was in Beijing. He had with him a list of 12 political prisoners. "Two of the people on that list, Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan, have now been released," he said. Mr Cook is not at his best with these lists. Mr Wei was freed on 16 November. And in March, when Mr Cook showed Mr Wei another list of political prisoners, and asked him for any information about their circumstances, Mr Wei pointed out that he was at the top.

This is symptomatic of how Britain deals with Beijing on human rights. The FCO's report highlights its "new dialogue on human rights with China" emphasising that dialogue, not confrontation, gets results. The Chinese now receive a "wide-ranging package of practical assistance", including legal training and village governance. "China also participated in a seminar on human rights in Beijing with the EU," signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, and "is preparing to sign" the one on Civil and Political Rights. The report mentions, too, lobbying for "individual cases" such as Wei Jingsheng's.

Individual cases are the easiest to understand. Bluntly, the UK had nothing to do with the release of Mr Wei last November, or that of Wang Dan on Sunday. Their releases were the result of deals between Washington and Beijing. The deal for Mr Wei was that he would be released in November, immediately after President Jiang received a full-scale White House welcome. The Wang release was part of the price for President Clinton visiting Beijing in June; the rest of the price was China agreeing to sign the Civil and Political Rights Covenant. The US agreed to give up sponsoring the annual UN resolution on human rights

in China - and Britain and the rest of the EU went along.

Mr Wei points out that while manoeuvres and deals in which this or that individual benefits are good for the victim - but cannot be considered Rights. This was made clear in Beijing on Monday. Wang Dan's release, a spokesman emphasised, was for medical reasons only. If he returned to China he would not be a free man. This was stated as well when Mr Wei was released, also for a flight to a hospital in Detroit, now waggishly dubbed the "Northwest Airlines Non-stop to Exile."

On Monday, the day after Wang Dan's release, China showed its contempt for the game by sentencing to two years in prison Wang Tinglin, a middle school teacher, charged with "disturbing social order". He had spoken with an exiled dissident, who had entered China in February, is not a criminal, and carries a Chinese passport. How is the "legal training" the FCO describes going to help school-teacher Wang? Or the handful of other dissidents arrested this month - whose names are not widely known in the West, so they will not be so valuable to the Chinese in obtaining concessions.

The judges are taking their orders from the Party which is not consulting a "wide-ranging package." Suppose Beijing signs the Covenant which includes Culture. What effect will that have on Chen Kuyuan, Party Secretary in Tibet? Last August Mr Chen described the notion that Tibetan culture is Buddhist as "absurd". Quoting Mao, he emphasised that "in inheriting a culture it is necessary to discard its dross."

What Beijing reacts to is pressure. After Tiananmen, international sanctions resulted in the release of hundreds of prisoners. The American fleet stopped invasion manoeuvres near Taiwan in March, 1996. By banning them from competition, international sporting bodies frightened China's swimmers into stopping their drug-taking.

In March, Mr Cook stood next to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright when she warned the Serbian regime to stop its murders in Kosovo. "If we don't get the kind of result we want, we need to remember that the only kind of pressure President Milosevic understands is the kind that imposes a real price on his unacceptable behaviour," Secretary Albright added words neither Britain nor the US are willing to apply to China. "Moral condemnation and symbolic gestures of concern will get us nowhere."

There is an alternative to joining the euro



HAMISH McRAE
ON LOOKING BEYOND EUROPE

WE NEED a Plan B, and we should be grateful to Newt Gingrich for suggesting one.

Plan A, of course, is Britain's membership of the EU, with all its entails and all it may entail in the future. It is conceivable that the plans for a single currency will be a success, at least for a while. It is conceivable, too, that Britain will feel adequately comfortable joining in the single currency if that is required of us at some stage in the first part of the next century as a condition of continued membership of the EU. But it is also conceivable that the euro will not be a success, or that we might not be prepared to accept the pooling of sovereignty that would result.

To say this is not to prejudge either the success of the euro or to take any particular position on Britain and the single currency. It is simply to say that any prudent organisation will always try to operate with a fall-back position. We would be mad not to do so.

This is why we should take very seriously the suggestion this week of Newt Gingrich, speaker of the US House of Representatives, that Britain should consider joining Nafta, the North American Free Trade Association. He is not the first top North American politician to suggest this: a few months ago Preston Manning, the Canadian opposition leader, proposed that Britain should be invited to join. This is not yet the official policy of the US administration, nor of the Canadian government. But there would, apparently, be a movement in both legislatures to put forward some formal invitation if Britain were indeed serious about joining.

We are not there yet - we do not need to make a decision at the moment, nor indeed could we do so, for joining Nafta would conflict with treaty obligations with the EU. But it is an option that deserves serious consideration. Indeed in many ways it is potentially a more attractive one than remaining in the EU.

To say that will seem odd to many people. Physical proximity would seem to run counter to the notion: we cannot unite Britain and drag it half-way across the Atlantic. And more than half

our visible trade is with the EU; we cannot turn our back on that.

But to focus on the links of physical proximity and visible trade is to take a curiously old-fashioned view of the world. Physical proximity matters less and less in an era of cheap air travel and cheap air freight, and the fastest-growing forms of trade are in goods and services with zero transport costs and instant delivery: trade in things like software or financial services. In the world of the Internet, distance is dead. We are moving to a world defined by cul-

ture and language rather than one defined by physical location.

Besides, though more than half our physical trade is with the EU, more than 80 per cent of our investments are outside the EU, and the largest single proportion of these are in the US. Britain has now become the second largest earner of investment income in the world after Japan. We need to protect our trade income, but we need to protect our investment income, too.

There are other reasons for suspecting that, given the choice, we might be wiser to try to tie the UK economy to North America rather than Eu-

Newt Gingrich suggests that Britain might join the North American Free Trade Association

rope. For purely demographic reasons, it will be a faster-growing region over the next 50 years. The US has just become the youngest of the Group of Seven nations, measured by the proportion of population under the age of 65; Britain becomes the second youngest around 2010; Canada is young too, and of course Mexico is younger still.

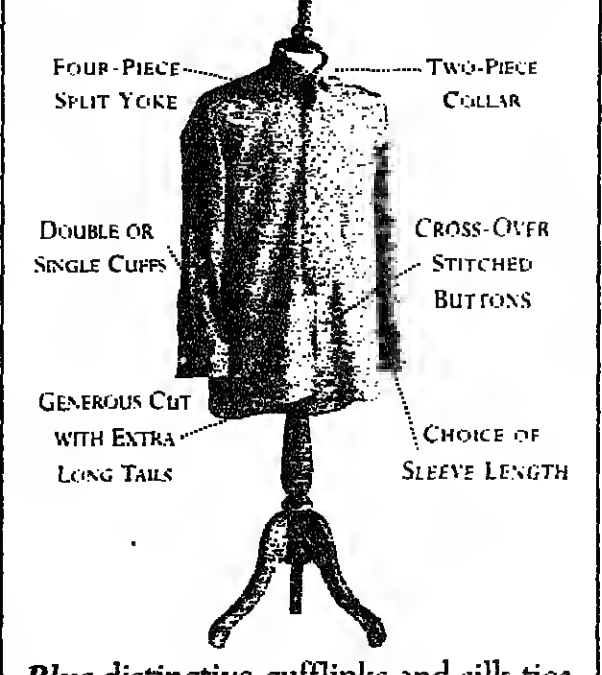
Not only will Nafta be faster-growing, it will also be larger. Much has been made of the fact that the EU group has a larger population than the Nafta one, and that its GDP is almost as big. Switch

ing. The child must be entertained or educated at all times, as though we distrust and fear what children might be were they left to their own devices.

While structured learning is back in vogue as the answer to the failures of boys within the current education system, not everyone responds to such structure. Indeed, while this government pins its hope on work as morally uplifting, it is in the world of non-work, formerly known as leisure, where the money is to be made.

The modern work-place requires people who can organise their own

JOSEPH TURNER
Introductory Offer-
superb two-fold cotton
shirts usually £36
now from just £26



Plus distinctive cufflinks and silk ties

For your FREE mail order
brochure phone 01845 575100
fax 01845 575111 or
e-mail: sales@josephturner.co.uk

Lessons from South Africa for peacemakers in Northern Ireland

Nelson Mandela tells Shaun Johnson that peace can be won in Ulster by men and women who put their children's future first

comes next, as leaders who have only just convinced themselves to take the leap now have to sell the plan to the people outside. We counsel three things: fortitude, limitless patience, and (we like our sporting metaphors here) the ability to sidestep.

The similarities and the differences between our completed settlement and Northern Ireland's embryonic one have been picked over endlessly. The differences are as important as the similarities, and only the foolish stretch the parallels too far, searching for the Irish Mandela, the De Klerk, the Buthelezi. They will not be found, nor should they be - for while the grand theme of reconciliation may be universal, the nature of its achievement is not.

But now, that the point has been reached in Northern Ireland where principled agreement must give way to the process itself, some of the lessons we learned - especially the one about the sidestep - are worth revisiting.

"Take fortitude first, that noun meaning courage in endurance. The South African process required extraordinary endurance, not least because of the wild mood swings that characterised our country from the moment of 'breakthrough' (in our case the release of Nelson Mandela) - and which, tellingly, still make a reappearance from time to time. It was endurance which eventually saw to it that the implacable radicals

of the right and left - those who actually did not want the peace - were marginalised, and Mandela's broad new 'centres' cohered. It took an awful long time and all bets were off, often.

Our process took four years, more or less. It felt like a hundred then, though now it is remembered as the blink of an eye. The peoples' patience is thinner even than the politicians': at one brief point, heresy of heresies, the greatest threat to achieving a negotiated settlement seemed to be public boredom. The grand declamatory speeches are few and far between, and the between is filled with uninspiring minutiae; occasional mendacity and a rich vein of pettiness.

In South Africa it was left to the US ambassador of the time to point out that by comparison with the labours of our country's founding fathers, our negotiations were fairly bounding along. It didn't feel like that to us, but we took the point: four years in the life of a country is nothing if forever is at stake.

Which brings us to the sidestep. If one tactic, one mechanism, saw through to its conclusion the South African negotiating process, it was the ability to circumvent one problem temporarily while continuing to make progress on others. Whenever - and it was often - an issue became too intractable for progress to be made, and tempers became too frayed, the negotiators sim-

ply moved away from it for a while - in public at least.

Although we must beware stretching the parallels between the two situations, we can listen to the echoes. There was a time in South Africa when it appeared that the entire peace process would collapse over one issue: whether or not the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto weSizwe, would hand in its arms caches. We didn't use words like "decommissioning", but I think we understand them.

I remember the early hours of a winter's morning in 1990 on the Highveld, with a knot of us transition-chroniclers huddled on the steps of the Union Buildings in Pretoria, smoking cigarettes and speculating as the meeting inside went beyond its twelfth hour. The issue of the arms caches had become the greatest test of the South African negotiators' settlement - the majority school of thought was that as neither side was going to budge, that was pretty much going to be it. Peace would be cancelled, war resumed.

It was not so. A rickety ceasefire was fashioned without resolving the cache question, but it was enough at the time. As the process moved far ahead on its own impetus, the caches were never mentioned again - the success of the wider negotiations rendered the issue effectively irrelevant.

The point is a simple one: if an ob-

stacle is too big to climb, just go around it. Strangely - and you will have to trust us on this - it doesn't look so big from the other side. Eventually it is a dot in the distance for a backward glance, then you can't see it any more - if you keep walking.

But don't take any of this from me. I was just lucky enough to have had a front-row seat as our country made its long, argumentative leap of faith. Listen rather to the architect of our still-miraculous transition. This week I asked President Nelson Mandela if he thought the glue, still not set at this crucial early stage, could hold in Northern Ireland as it had in South Africa.

Mandela replied: "As long as there are men and women on all sides who are able to rise above feelings for revenge, men and women who can put the future of their children first, who can put terrible episodes behind them in order to move on, this process can work as ours eventually did."

"I have great respect for all the leaders in the Northern Ireland negotiations, and I hope that their supporters on all sides will be persuaded that this peace must be achieved."

"It will take a long time. There will be many disappointments. But it can be done if the will is unshakable."

Shaun Johnson is editorial director of *The Independent Newspapers in South Africa*.

ared dead
ibian crash

LDCOVER
0202 2551

Octavio Paz

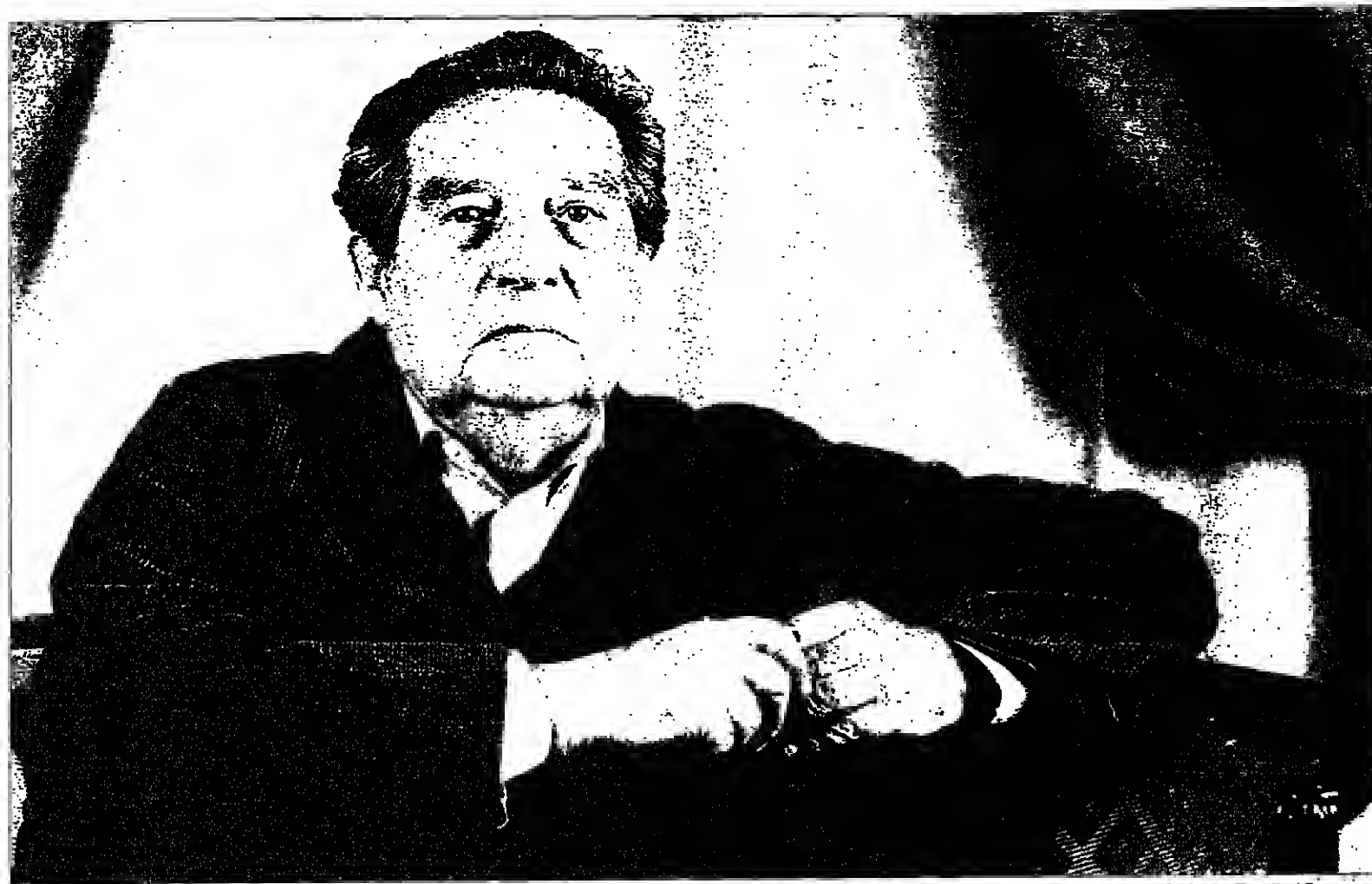
THE WORD — or the lack of it — is at the heart of the prose and poetry of the Mexican genius Octavio Paz. "In order to be able to speak, learn to be silent" was one of his best-known aphorisms. Paz was a man of words, and a man of silences.

The silences, which he often claimed were the most important things taught him by his reading of Chinese and Japanese literature, were not always in evidence. His voluble Latin temperament would not allow him to stay silent for very long. He was one of the most generous and extravagant word-spillers I have ever known. When I first met him during his brief appearance at the Avignon Festival in 1952, I felt totally inundated by his tremendous gift of the gab, a garrulous hotch-pot of French, English, Spanish and Portuguese with his of Greek and Russian, all delivered in a singularly resonant and musical voice that fascinated me so much, I neglected to pay attention to the meaning of what he was saying, and only came down to earth when he suddenly stopped his seemingly unstoppable flow and demanded, "Why don't you say something?"

When Paz was born in 1914, Mexico was in the throes of revolution. His mother took him away to the comparative safety of the village of Mexcala, now long since engulfed by the spreading tentacles of the city. The boy's family on his mother's side was Spanish, from Andalusia; his grandmother had come from Puerto de Santa Maria, where the poet Rafael Alberti was born, and his grandfather from nearby Medina Sidonia. But Paz also had Mexican Indian blood, a fact he was very proud of. It was to influence his whole life and art.

His Mexican father, from whom he derived his Indian descent, was a lawyer and a supporter of the revolutionary Emiliano Zapata, whose representative he became for a while in the United States, where Octavio spent his early childhood, an experience he was never to forget. But the family was ruined by the civil war, and Paz grew up in straitened circumstances. During his education at a Catholic school, he discovered that he was an atheist.

As a student at the University of Mexico, he became interested in politics of the far left, and began writing. His first book of poetry, *Luna silvestre* ("Silvan



Paz: 'the whole of Latin America in person, and also the entire earth on an only slightly reduced scale'

Photograph: Marc Deville / Spooners

Moon", 1933), published just before his 20th birthday, was a collection of half-baked romantic work. He also helped found the literary review *Surrealismo*, in which most of his early poems appeared. The tragic death of his father in 1934 produced *Ígual: fragmentos del diario de un sonador* ("Vigils: fragments from the diary of a dreamer"), with beginnings of Surrealist imagery. The word "fragment" in the title also foretells the poet's future interest in fragmented forms, learnt from Oriental literature and Aztec art.

In 1934 too Paz met Rafael Alberti, who was on a poetry-reading and lecturing tour of Mexico. The impact of this meeting was overwhelming. Though Paz found the lectures boring, he was enthusiastic about Alberti's impassioned readings of his own verse and that of other modern Spanish poets like Lorca, Juan Larrea, Vicente Aleixandre and Miguel Hernández, who were to become his literary idols. The oratorical power of Paz's own

readings derives from this first experience of hearing poetry read aloud by a master.

His next book was *Bajo nublada sombra y otros poemas* ("Within your Clear Shadow and Other Poems", 1935), his first collection of poems exclusively on the erotic themes that were to become a major part of his work right to the end of his life. They were eventually included as the first two parts of the second edition of his most famous book, *Libertad bajo palabra* ("Liberty on Parole"), whose various editions with changing contents extended from 1935 to 1957. The poet's ideas on sex were often expressed in writing and conversation. Talking freely to Julian Ross in *Solo a los vientos* ("Solo for Two Voices", 1973), Paz declared:

Poetry is above all a sensual form... Eroticism is a social creation. Man makes love with his imagination. Imagination renders palpable the phantasms of desire. Thanks to the imagination, erotic desire always goes beyond animal sexuality... But pleasure is always mingled with sadness and melancholy. There is an

element of suffering inherent in eroticism. D.H. Lawrence tries to sacralise love, to give sex a sacred force. St John of the Cross is exactly the opposite. He's a mystic but a mystic who approaches the love of God in terms that are completely carnal. The God of St John of the Cross is a physically desirable corporeal God.

On 18 July 1936, General Francisco Franco rose up against the Republican government of Spain. In the heat of the moment, Paz wrote his first politically "committed" poem, "No pasami" ("They Shall Not Pass"). It was very uneven in quality and was later omitted from his books. But it proclaimed his position, and the poem was noticed by Pablo Neruda, who in 1937 invited him to the Congress of Antifascist Writers in Valencia, still a Republican stronghold. This was Paz's first real encounter with the poets of Spain and France — Luis Aragon, André Breton, Vicente Huidobro, César Vallejo, Miguel Hernández and another great, mythical figure in modern Spanish poetry, the openly homosexual Luis Cernuda, whose autobiography, *La realidad y el deseo* ("Reality and Desire"), Paz discovered in Spain. When Cernuda took refuge in Mexico, he and Paz became close friends.

Octavio Paz was a genuine socialist with high ideals for the welfare of the working man and the social underdogs, *pachucos*, who are today called *chicanos*. "I felt myself to be a *chicano* and believed that the *chicano* was a Mexican taken to extremes," he told Julian Ross. He composed in 1937 a series of neo-baroque sonnets, "Crepúsculos de la ciudad" ("City Twilight") in which he expressed his discontent with the hypocrisies of city life and society. He founded a free school for the sons of workers and *campesinos* in Mérida, the capital of Yucatán, where he founded a "Comité pro-Democracia Española". The poetic fruit of this activity was his most ambitious poem on social themes and on the exploitation of the Yucatán native tribes, "Entre la piedra y la flor" ("Between Stone and Flower", 1941).

It was after this period that he returned to Mexico City, contracted his first marriage and again displayed the fullness of his social and political conscience by attending the Writers' Congress in Valencia, and, on his return to Mexico, militating in the Republican cause and writing a column in *El Popular*, the newspaper of the Confederation of Mexican Workers. He took on the direction of reviews like *Taller* and *Hora de España* in 1938 in which he outlined many of his future theories of poetry and its relation to society and of the importance of love in the cause of peace.

In his 1967 essays *Corriente alterna* ("Alternating Current"), Paz made these profound statements about poetry developed from those early ideas: "Understanding a poem means, in the first place, hearing it. Reading a poem is hearing it with the eyes; hearing it is seeing it with the ears. The poem should provoke the reader: oblige him to listen — to listen to himself... The poem is the passage from one silence to another — between the desire to say and the silence that unites desire and saying... All speech is

resolved in silence... There are two silences — the silence that precedes speech and the silence that succeeds it. In order to be silent one must have been speaking.

In 1945, Paz was invited to enter the diplomatic corps, and his first posting was to Paris, where he joined André Breton and the Surrealist group and met the Uruguayan poet Jules Supervielle, who remembered him thus: "Paz is the whole of Latin America in person, and also the entire earth on an only slightly reduced scale." This bore out my own initial impression of the poet: he was a symphonic superman, a force of nature, Whitmanesque, his poetry and prose lush, dense yet fluid, sweeping away all in its path yet buoying it up, a great river of words, an avalanche of passion, a tornado of images and ideas. His writing breaks through all the restraints imposed by genres and movements. "My essays are journalism in the slow lane," he said, and in both his prose and his poetry he sometimes expressed conflicting opinions, insisting on something he considered to be an important human right, "the right to self-contradiction". Paz was fond of Whitman's *Song of Myself* and the lines:

Do I contradict myself?
Very well then I contradict myself.
(I am large, I contain multitudes)

As for the diplomatic treadmill, Paz considered it simply another life, a parallel life to the life of poetry. It did not stop him writing volumes of philosophical essays and literary and political criticism, including the very important *El laberinto de la soledad* ("The Labyrinth of Solitude", 1950), and *Águila o sol?* ("Eagle or Sun?", 1951).

Paz served as Mexico's ambassador to India from 1962 to 1968, when he also visited Japan, and wrote a number of haiku-like poems and the beautiful "Basho-an" about the haiku poet Basho's old hut in the Kyoto countryside. Similar haiku-like poems are in *Ladera este* ("Eastern Slope", 1970), with many poems about India.

But personal sorrows accompanied his stay in India. In 1964, Luis Cernuda died, and Paz wrote an elegy to this beloved friend, "La palabra edificante" ("The Edifying Word"), lamenting a long friendship that only death could break. Then he felt impelled to resign his ambassadorship in 1968, in protest, against the bloody

slaughter of students by government troops on the Plaza de Tlatelolco in Mexico City. For a time he lived in Paris.

On his return to Mexico, Paz founded yet another literary review, *Vuelta*, and continued travelling the world, for a time teaching at Harvard. His *Sonidos de oca*, a translation of Basho's *Narrow Road to the Deep North* in collaboration with E. Hayashi, is the best work ever written on Basho and haiku, first appearing in Mexico in 1957, and then in 1970 in Spain. It affected my own work as much as his *Anthology of Mexican Poetry* (1958) in a translation made by Samuel Beckett.

Paz continued travelling the world, for a time teaching at Harvard. He translated the poems of William Carlos Williams and collected and translated poems from various languages, including Swedish, Portuguese, French, Chinese and Japanese in *Versiones y diversiones* (1974). He received innumerable prizes and awards, culminating in the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1982. I saw him again in July 1992 at the Avignon Festival, surrounded by old friends and making new ones, still "Seeking for the Present" — the title of his Nobel acceptance speech — and still talking endlessly about poetry and politics, taking potshots at all the crypto-Marxists, with readings of great chunks of his work in the Chapelle Sainte Claire, to packed, enthusiastic audiences, and daily animating an exhibition devoted to him in the Médiathèque Cécéenne.

In one of his last collections, *Arbol adentro* ("The Tree Within", 1987), Paz, the universal man, writes his own epitaph in the beautiful poem "Fraternalidad":

I am a man: I won't last long
and night is enormous.
But I look up on high:
the stars are writing.
Without understanding I understand;

I too am scripture
and at this very moment
someone is spelling my name.

James Kirkup

Octavio Paz, writer and diplomatist, born Mexico City 31 March 1914; Mexican Ambassador to India 1962-68; Simón Bolívar Professor of Latin American Studies, Cambridge University 1970-71; Charles Eliot Norton Professor of Poetry, Harvard University 1971-72; Nobel Prize for Literature 1982; married Elena Garro (marriage dissolved), 1966; Marie José Trannin (one daughter); died Mexico City 19 April 1998.

Dr Jimmy Jefferiss

JIMMY JEFFERISS practised medicine in venereology before the advent of antibiotics. He was involved in the treatment of patients during the syphilis and gonorrhoea epidemics of the Second World War, and built up at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, the largest venereal disease clinic in Europe. At a time when even many of those working in the field of venereology were judgemental, Jefferiss and the unit at St Mary's were remarkable for the tolerant approach which they had towards patients.

He came to St Mary's in 1929 and graduated in 1935. On his retirement 40 years later, Jefferiss gave an interview to the Editor of the *St Mary's Gazette*. He described his first impres-

sion of the hospital when he came for an interview in 1928:

I first came to Mary's on a windy day in July, coming round the corner of the South Wharf Road to approach the Medical School, which was partly in the site of the current Lindo Wing, meeting a blast of wind, chaff and the smell of dried horse dung. In those days, when there was little road transport, merchandise coming on London via Fiddlingham from the West either by rail or by barge was distributed by horse-drawn vans. The noise made by their steel wheels on the granite block surface of the South Wharf Road was deafening.

Jefferiss came from a prominent medical family. An ancestor, Dr Thomas Monro, had been the first physician superintendent of the Bethlem and Maudsley Infirmary, his father was a GP and he himself was the fourth generation of doctors to

be associated with St Mary's Hospital and Medical School.

His life before the Second World War epitomised that of an affluent middle-class professional family. When he left Sedburgh School, he drove back to Devon in his 1912 Stovecar and from that date continued to have a succession of cars, an Avis, a Morgan, which he raced at Brooklands, and, when he became a Resident Medical Officer in Kingston and Guildford in the late Thirties, a 4.5 litre Bentley. Apart from racing at Brooklands he was also involved in hill climbs.

As he had joined the RAFVR in 1938, he was called up in September 1939, when he was the Clinical Assistant in Ophthalmology and an Assis-

tant Medical Officer in the VD department at St Mary's. He was posted to the special treatment centre at RAF Holton in November 1939 and promoted to Squadron Leader in 1941. On his discharge in 1946, he returned to St Mary's as the Registrar in Venereal Diseases and was appointed an NHS Consultant in Venereology at the onset of the Health Service in 1948.

Amiable, friendly, unassuming, Jefferiss was excellent at dealing with people. He had a very pleasant and charming clinical manner, and could relate well to patients of all ages and backgrounds. He worked well with other members of staff and easily established and retained their loyalty. In 1958, he was appointed the head of his

department. For five years he was the Deputy Dean of St Mary's Hospital Medical School. He became treasurer of the Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases in 1959 and in 1962 was elected as President of the society.

In 1960, he was appointed to the Board of the International Union Against Venereal Diseases and Treponematoses. At the time, this was the sole international body advising the World Health Organisation on the care and treatment of venereal diseases and treponematoses. He was Treasurer of the union from 1964 to 1971 and Secretary from 1971 to 1977.

On his retirement, Jefferiss established the Jefferiss Charitable Research Trust, which be-

came a major force in stimulating academic research into both sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS. The charity established two academic departments (one at St Mary's Hospital Medical School, the other at Liverpool University). Both departments and the young professors who were appointed to the Jefferiss Chairs have been extremely successful.

Jefferiss lived to see not only the advent of HIV/AIDS infection, but also, to his great pleasure, the development of new anti-retroviral drugs, which appear at last to be able to arrest the development of the disease and offer help and encouragement to its sufferers. He remained Secretary of the trust until his death.

Jimmy Jefferiss was a man

with many interests. Apart from his lifelong love of cars and motor racing, he was a fine sailor and as a medical student and young doctor was frequently asked to crew in the yachts of the more successful surgeons and gynaecologists of the 1930s. He shot for Mary's and was an avid collector of watercolours.

In February 1976, the Victoria and Albert Museum held an exhibition of paintings entitled "Dr Thomas Monro and his Associates". As well as being chief physician of the Bethlem Hospital (from 1792 to 1816), Monro had been an amateur watercolour artist and a patron of Turner and Girtin. Since Jefferiss had devoted much of his free time to tracing, locating and, on occasions, pur-



Jefferiss: unassuming

chasing the paintings from this group he wrote the commentary for the exhibition catalogue.

Willie Harris

Frederick James Gordon Jefferiss, physician, born London 4 February 1910; married 1944 Phyllis Green (one son); died Maidstone, Kent 6 April 1998.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

FIXSEN: Heather Mary, on 19 April, aged 55 years, Darling wife of Nick, and wonderful Mum to Karen, Rachel and Gus. Funeral to be held on Friday 24 April at 1pm. St John the Baptist Church, Bathaston, Bath. **GARLAND:** Peggy, born 21 May 1903, died peacefully 17 April 1998 at John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. All friends welcome to join the family at the Quaker Meeting House, 42 St Giles, Oxford, Thursday 23 April, 3pm. **TUFFIELD:** (Tuff) John Christopher, best beloved, Core, Wester Ross, died quite unexpectedly on 18 April at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. Funeral Service at St Michael's Church, Plockton, 1pm, Wednesday 22 April. Family flowers. Donations if desired to Sight Savers International.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS may be sent to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5LJ, telephoned to 011-292 2012 or faxed to 011-292 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales, 36, will marry the Countess of Wessex, 36, on 10 June 1999 at Windsor Castle. The Countess of Wessex is the daughter of Lord and Lady Snowdon. The Prince of Wales is the son of the Queen and Prince Philip. The Countess of Wessex is the daughter of Lord and Lady Snowdon. The Prince of Wales is the son of the Queen and Prince Philip.

Birthdays

Mr Leo Abwa, former MP 81; Mr Eddie Albert, actor, 90; Sir Michael Atiyah, mathematician, 69; Sir Christopher Ball, former Warden, Keele College, Oxford, 65; Mr Lewis Biggs, Curator, Tate Gallery, Liverpool, 46; Mr Alan Bond, businessman and businessman, 60; Mr Peter Bowring, former chairman, C.T. Bowring, 75; Mr Colin Burgon, M.P., 50; Mr Glen Campbell, country singer, 61; Mr Yvette Chauviré, ballerina assoluta, 81; Sir John Chilcot, Permanent Under-Secretary, Northern Ireland Office, 59; Mr George Cole, actor, 73; Mrs Carole Drinkwater, actress, 58; Mr Martin Drury, Director-General, National Trust, 46; Mr Alan Dukes, former leader of the Fine Gael party in Ireland, 53; Li-Gan Sir John Foley, 59; Mr Peter Frampton, rock musician, 48; Sir William Gage, High Court judge, 60; Mr Lloyd Honeyghan, boxer, 38; Mr Robin Hutton, merchant banker, 65; Mr Ronald Hynd, choreographer, 67; Mr Robert Kay M.P., 55; Mr André Kirkwood M.P., 52; Mr Nico Landini, restaurateur, 64; Mr John Alphas M.P., 55; Dr Geoffrey Marshall, Provost, the Queen's College, Oxford, 69; Lord Mennin, violinist, 82; Mr Jack Nicholson, actor, 61; The

Earl of Oxford and Asquith, former Governor of the Seychelles, 82; Miss Margaret Pereira, former Controller, Home Office Forensic Science Service, 70; Sir David Ratford, former ambassador to Norway, 64; Mr R.J. Ritchie, former tennis player, 58; Professor Sir Eric Scowen, physician, 88; Mr Charles Sison, writer and poet, 84; Mr David Summerscale, Headmaster, Westminster School, 61; Sir Robert Wade-Gery, vice-chairman, Barclays Capital, 69.

Anniversaries

Births: Henry Fielding, novelist, 1707; Immanuel Kant, philosopher, 1724; Madame de Staël (Anne-Louise-Germaine Necker, Baronne de Staël-Holstein), writer, 1766; Lenin (Vladimir Ilich Ulyanov), Communist leader, 1870; Sergei Sergeyevich Prokofiev, composer, 1891; Julius Robert Oppenheimer, physicist, 1904; Deane John Tausen, gardener, 1962; Richard Millieu Nixon, 37th US president, 1924. **On this day:** the Royal Society was incorporated, 1662; the New York World's Fair opened, 1939. **Today is the Feast Day of:** St Agrippinus I, pope, Saint Epiphanius and Alexander, St Leonides of Alexandria, St Opportuna and St Theodore of Sykeon.

Changing of the Guard
The Household Cavalry will march to the Horse Guards at Horse Guards, 11am, to London's Changing of the Guard ceremony. The Household Cavalry will march to the Horse Guards at Horse Guards, 11am, to London's Changing of the Guard ceremony.

LAW REPORT: 22 APRIL 1998

Extended contract is for one fixed term

British Broadcasting Corporation v Kelly-Phillips
Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Thorpe) 8 April 1998

A FIXED-TERM contract of employment which had been extended by agreement was to be regarded as one fixed-term contract for the extended term. The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal of the BBC against a finding of the Employment Appeal Tribunal on a preliminary issue that the respondent, Linda Kelly-Phillips, could pursue a complaint against it of unfair dismissal.

The respondent, having previously been employed by the BBC on a fixed-term contract, was offered a new fixed-term contract of employment from 4 September 1994 to 5 September 1995. The agreement contained a waiver

clause in the following terms: "In so far as it is permitted by current employment legislation, non-renewal or non-extension of this engagement when its term expires shall not constitute grounds either for a claim of unfair dismissal or for any redundancy payment."

Part X of the Employment Rights Act 1996 gave an employee the right not to be unfairly dismissed. However, section 197(1) allowed an employer and employee to contract out of the application of Part X where there was a dismissal from employment under a contract for a fixed term of one year or more, if the dismissal consisted only of the expiry of that term without its being renewed.

The contract was later extended to 31 December 1995. On 22 December 1995 the BBC wrote to respondent, telling her that her contract would come to an end on 31 December and was not being renewed.

The respondent complained of unfair dismissal to an Industrial Tribunal. The BBC relied on the fact that she had contracted out of making such a claim. The Industrial Tribunal held, *inter alia*, that at the date of her dismissal the respondent had been engaged on a fixed-term contract for a little less than four months. Section 197(1) did not, therefore, apply and her complaint of unfair dismissal could proceed. The Employment Appeal Tribunal upheld that decision, and the BBC appealed.

Patrick Elias QC and John Bowers (Solicitors, BBC Litigation Department) for the BBC; John Hardy QC and Jennifer Eady (Thompsons) for the respondent.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson said that the question was whether the contract governing the employment from which the respondent had been dis-

missed was the varied contract for the extended fixed term, or the agreement by which the original fixed term had been extended. The term of which was the extension only.

It had been argued for the respondent that to regard the contract and the agreed extension as one fixed-term contract for the purposes of section 197(1) distorted the natural meaning of the section. Section 197 could not, however, be construed on its own. In particular, section 95(1)(b) was of crucial importance, because it recognised that there could be an extension of a fixed term of a contract "under the same contract".

Since, under section 95(1)(b), there could be an extension of the term without there being a new contract, the term thereafter must be the extended term. Importing that into section 197(1), it would follow that

the reference to a contract for a fixed term did encompass a contract which had been varied by an extension of the term under the same contract.

There was no compelling reason in the authorities to depart from that view of the construction of section 197(1), which received support from the observations of the majority of the Court of Appeal in *BBC v Ioannou* [1975] QB 781, from *Mulrine v University of Ulster* [1993] IRLR 545, and from *Bhat v Chelsea and Westminster Health Care Trust* [1997] IRLR 660.

Whilst recognising that there might be potential for the abuse of the exemption in section 197(1) by fixed-term contracts being extended repeatedly, that did not justify giving the statutory wording a gloss which otherwise it could not bear.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister



Foreign Exchange Rates									
Country	Spot	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year	Country	Spot	1 month	3 month
UK	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	US	0.6963	0.6972	0.6981
Australia	2.5380	2.5375	2.5370	2.5365	2.5360	Canada	0.7150	0.7155	0.7160
France	6.5493	6.5488	6.5483	6.5478	6.5473	Japan	100.00	100.00	100.00
Germany	1.9364	1.9369	1.9374	1.9379	1.9384	South Africa	1.4850	1.4855	1.4860
Italy	1.3666	1.3671	1.3676	1.3681	1.3686	India	47.85	47.85	47.85
Spain	166.64	166.64	166.64	166.64	166.64	China	8.2756	8.2756	8.2756
Sweden	4.6460	4.6460	4.6460	4.6460	4.6460	Hong Kong	7.7563	7.7563	7.7563
Switzerland	2.0375	2.0375	2.0375	2.0375	2.0375	India	47.85	47.85	47.85
US	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	Japan	100.00	100.00	100.00
Other Spot Rates									
Country	Spot	Country	Spot	Country	Spot	Country	Spot	Country	Spot
Argentina	167.00	Chile	800.00	Colombia	2,000.00	Costa Rica	2.000.00	Cuba	20.000.00
Brazil	1,272.00	Egypt	2.000.00	Guatemala	2.000.00	Honduras	2.000.00	Indonesia	1,600.00
Canada	0.7150	Israel	3.4833	Malaysia	3.400.00	Nicaragua	2.000.00	Pakistan	100.000.00
China	8.2756	Italy	1.3666	Peru	3.300.00	Salvador	2.000.00	Philippines	50.000.00
France	6.5493	South Africa	1.4850	Singapore	7.7563	Taiwan	20.000.00	Sri Lanka	20.000.00
Germany	1.9364	Sweden	4.6460	Thailand	50.000.00	Uruguay	20.000.00	Vietnam	20.000.00
Italy	1.3666	Switzerland	2.0375	US	1.0000				
Interest Rates									
Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
UK	7.25%	Germany	5.50%	US	5.50%	Japan	5.50%	France	5.50%
France	5.50%	Italy	5.50%	Spain	5.50%	Sweden	5.50%	Switzerland	5.50%
Germany	5.50%	Canada	5.50%	Australia	5.50%	India	5.50%	China	5.50%
Bond Yields									
Country	3m	6m	1yr	2yr	3yr	5yr	10yr	30yr	Govt
UK	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Germany	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
France	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Italy	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Spain	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Sweden	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Switzerland	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
US	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Money Market Rates									
Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
UK	5.50%	Germany	5.50%	US	5.50%	Japan	5.50%	France	5.50%
France	5.50%	Italy	5.50%	Spain	5.50%	Sweden	5.50%	Switzerland	5.50%
Germany	5.50%	Canada	5.50%	Australia	5.50%	India	5.50%	China	5.50%
Life Financial Futures									
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Open	Close	Contract	Settlement	High	Low
Long Call	Jan-98	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	Short Put	Jan-98	100.00	100.00
Short Call	Jan-98	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	Long Put	Jan-98	100.00	100

Alner eager for another Dawn chorus

By Sue Montgomery

DEPENDING on your priorities, it is either the last hurrah from the jump season or a precursor of great things at Epsom. But call it Whitbread day or Classic Trial day, Saturday's card at Sandown is (this year, weather allowing) a unique one in the British racing calendar.

It is the only occasion on which a winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup or the Grand National might win the Derby, and as such is part of the variety and tradition of the sport in this country.

Two of the industry's viewpoints can be represented within in half an hour: the enjoyment of the crack of whinny and the angst over whether investment in a choicely-bred three-year-old colt has been worth it.

If the rain gods relent and the going at Esher lightens up, then Cool Dawn will represent a fairly rare breed: a Gold Cup

winner who contests the Whitbread in the year of his Cheltenham triumph. Only one - the peerless Arkle 33 years ago - has completed the double in 41 years of sport's longest standing sponsorship; the last one to try was Ten Up, down the field at Sandown behind April Seventh in 1975. (Master Smudge was unplaced in 1980, but he did not become that year's Gold Cup winner until a few weeks later, on the disqualification of Tied Cottage).

Cool Dawn's trainer Robert Alner, who also has Racing Post Chase winner Super Tactics entered, will be going for a double of his own, having scored with Harwell Lad last

year. Only three men - Neville Crump, Fulke Walwyn and Kim Bailey - have previously won back-to-back Whitbreads with different horses.

Dorset-based Alner, 54, is enjoying - and the word is used advisedly - his best season in terms of quality and quantity. It is only his fifth with a public licence, like Cool Dawn he has graduated from the point-to-point field, in which sphere he was champion rider as recently as 1992. And though he is now keeping the best professional company, he will not desert his roots.

"How people love the sport was brought home to me on Sunday at the Cotchester

point-to-point," he said. "The horses were moderate, it was cold and muddy, the conditions couldn't have been worse and they were racing for only £80.

"No-one had to be there, the old had been at home out of the rain in front of the TV. But there was not a cross, disappointed face to be seen. They weren't doing it for the money. They were doing it for the warm feeling inside."

Alner still runs the 300-acre dairy establishment near Droop where he was born, though with the slump in the farming industry his business emphasis has now shifted towards the horses.

"The farm used to keep them, and when I was riding I was having the fun without having to worry about the financial side.

"It had always been in the back of my mind to set up as a trainer, and there came a time when everything seemed to fit into place. Injury stopped me riding. I bought an extra 70 acres on chalk, ideal for the horses, and it became apparent I had some potentially decent horses. It was as if fate was playing its hand and it would have been silly not to take advantage."

At the Grand National meeting it seemed that Aintree was a bridge too soon for those who had competed at Chel-

tenham. Cool Dawn, though, will be a fresh horse on Saturday. Alner said: "We stopped (training him) because he was in the field and gave him time to relax. There was no other target but the Whitbread, and he soon put back on the 20 kilos he lost.

"We hope the ground dries out a bit, because he's in great form and will not be as well handicapped ever again. But if it's soft he won't be there. We will pull him up if he isn't going well, but there's no point in running just to do that. He is such a good, bold, brave horse I'd hate to disappoint him."

Winning the Gold Cup has as yet made little difference to Alner's life; no flood of new owners at the gate of Locketts Farm. But anyone who has doubts about any return on investment only had to witness the pride and pleasure emanating from the winners' enclosure at Cheltenham as Alner and owner Didio Harding welcomed their hero. That warm feeling inside, to be sure.

Prospects for the Whitbread meeting at Sandown which gets under way on Friday improved yesterday. "Conditions have generally improved but our biggest problem area would be the five-furlong track, which in places is very, very soft and some of the ground is false," Andrew Cooper, clerk of the course, said. In the Whitbread betting, Coral cut David Gando's Carole's Crusader to 9-1 from 12-1.

Today's scheduled race meeting at Redcar has been abandoned because the course is waterlogged.

Pursuers close the gap on Heiner

By Stuart Alexander in Baltimore

ROY HEINER and the crew of Brunel Sunery will have been casting anxious glances over the stern yesterday as their lead in the seventh leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race was steadily ground down.

The chasing pair of Swedish Match and EF Language had cut the Dutchman's lead from 46 miles to 17 miles last night. As the leaders plotted their course into Chesapeake Bay and a possible finish in Baltimore today, the weather could yet reshuffle the pack by dealing new curbs in the 120-mile run up the Bay.

Positions were constantly changing as the fourth to ninth placed boats were spread over less than 10 miles. The forecast today is for a lot of rain and not much wind, which may only add to the misery of George Collins as he desperately attempts to bring Chessie Racing into her home port at the head of the fleet.

Lawrie Smith and navigator Vincent Geake are already upped as fifth-placed Silk Cut's vital satellite communications system has again broken down, cutting them off from weather information.

Gunnar Krantz (Swedish Match) and Paul Cuyard (EF) had broken away by 20 miles from Knut Frostad in Innovation Kvaerner, with the Norwegian in fourth place, separated from Dennis Conner, last in Toshiba, by less than 10 miles.

Collins was seventh, just behind Grant Dalton in Merit Cup, but seven miles away from Frostad and knowing the whole of Baltimore was hanging on to hourly reports on his fortunes. Whitbread Round the World (seventh leg, 870 miles, Port Lauderdale to Baltimore) 1 Brunel Sunery (Deny) R Haney 224.5 miles; 2 Chessie Racing (US) G Collins 208.8; 3 EF Language (US) P Cuyard 210.4; 4 Innovation Kvaerner (Nor) K Frostad 208.8; 5 Silk Cut (GB) L Smith 202.8; 6 Merit Cup (Nor) G Dalton 192.7; 7 Chessie Racing (US) G Collins 187.9; 8 EF Language (US) P Cuyard 187.9; 9 Toshiba (Jpn) D Conner 187.9.

Giants pair miss ban

By Richard Taylor

MANCHESTER GIANTS' American pair Steve McGlothlin and Michael New have escaped a ban and can play against Peugeot Bulls Birmingham in the first semi-final of the Budweiser Championship play-offs at Wembley Arena on Saturday week.

McGlothlin and New were thrown out of Manchester's defeat against the league champions, Greater London Leopards, in the first game of their best-of-three quarter-final, leaving the team bench to join a fracas on court.

The English Basketball Association's disciplinary officer, Morris Wordsworth, yesterday decided against increasing their penalty points total to 10, which would have brought an automatic ban.

The England international Peter Scantlebury, who has a record 121 caps, has been named Player of the Year for the third time by the Association, who have awarded the women's title to Julia Richardson, of Thames Valley Lady Tigers, for the first time.

Scantlebury's experience helped Newcastle Eagles to reach third place in the Budweiser League, although they then lost to London Towers in the play-offs. Towers now play Thames Valley Tigers at Wembley.

Michael Jordan, who has just won the National Basketball Association's scoring title for the 10th time, leads the Chicago Bulls into their title defence against the New Jersey Nets in the first round of the NBA play-offs.

NBA PLAY-OFFS (best of five) First round: Eastern Conference: Charlotte v Atlanta, Miami v New York, Indiana v Cleveland, Chicago v New Jersey, Western Conference: Utah v Houston, Phoenix v San Antonio, Seattle v Minnesota, Los Angeles Lakers v Portland.

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

2.05: The in-form Sean Woods yard finds Shamrock high but the inside rails. SELTHURST PARK FLYER is on the outside, but his liking for this downland track, and soft going, should enable him to overcome that disadvantage.

2.35: Achilles is sufficiently well-placed for the Derby at a cost of £3,000. This colt is only small but is a tough sort who should suit well around this switchback course. The Glow-Worm rates a big danger if it enough on his seasonal debut.

3.10: If State Fair could recapture his form of last spring and summer, he could well defy the burden of top weight. The locally-trained Mervin Beat is fit from training. ARTIC COURIER was a winner for the first time and this slightly seven-year-old is a course and distance winner.

3.40: Gangs performs well on a easy surface and must be a contender for the 1000 Guineas. ALMOND ROCK looks primed for this, however, after a good second at Kempton (1000 Guineas). Present Arms was only sent out this morning, but is likely to be a bit closer on this longer trip.

4.15: Spring Meeting Maiden Stakes (Class D) £5,000 added. 1m 11yds. 1. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

4.45: Cuddington Limited Stakes (Class E) £5,000 added. 1m 11yds. 1. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

A dab hand

LEND A HAND impressed in a work-out at Southwell yesterday, and is all set for the 2,000 Guineas. The colt, partnered by his big-race jockey Darryl Holland, galloped for a mile.

Results

2.40: 1. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

Epsom

2.05 Selhurst Park Flyer 3.10 Almond Rock (nb) 2.35 Achilles 4.15 Putnam 3.10 Artic Courier 4.45 Gee Bee Dream

HYPERION

2.05 Selhurst Park Flyer 3.10 Almond Rock (nb) 2.35 Achilles 4.15 Putnam 3.10 Artic Courier 4.45 Gee Bee Dream

FORM FLYER

2.05 Selhurst Park Flyer 3.10 Almond Rock (nb) 2.35 Achilles 4.15 Putnam 3.10 Artic Courier 4.45 Gee Bee Dream

STANLEY RACING GREAT METROPOLITAN HANDICAP (CLASS C) £12,000 1m 4f 10yds

1. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

SPRING MEETING MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 1m 11yds

1. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

CITY AND SUBURBAN HANDICAP (CLASS B) £15,000 added 2m 2f 8yds

1. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

CUDINGTON LIMITED STAKES (CLASS E) £5,000 added 1m 11yds

1. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

Results

2.40: 1. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.05 BANSTAD STAKES (HANDICAP) (CLASS C) £10,000 added 6f

1. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.35 SELTHURST PARK FLYER (nb) 3.10 ALMOND ROCK (nb) 2.35 Achilles 4.15 Putnam 3.10 Artic Courier 4.45 Gee Bee Dream

1. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.35 SELTHURST PARK FLYER (nb) 3.10 ALMOND ROCK (nb) 2.35 Achilles 4.15 Putnam 3.10 Artic Courier 4.45 Gee Bee Dream

1. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.35 SELTHURST PARK FLYER (nb) 3.10 ALMOND ROCK (nb) 2.35 Achilles 4.15 Putnam 3.10 Artic Courier 4.45 Gee Bee Dream

1. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.35 SELTHURST PARK FLYER (nb) 3.10 ALMOND ROCK (nb) 2.35 Achilles 4.15 Putnam 3.10 Artic Courier 4.45 Gee Bee Dream

1. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.35 SELTHURST PARK FLYER (nb) 3.10 ALMOND ROCK (nb) 2.35 Achilles 4.15 Putnam 3.10 Artic Courier 4.45 Gee Bee Dream

1. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.35 SELTHURST PARK FLYER (nb) 3.10 ALMOND ROCK (nb) 2.35 Achilles 4.15 Putnam 3.10 Artic Courier 4.45 Gee Bee Dream

1. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. RALPH (10) (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.40: 1. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.40: 1. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.40: 1. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.40: 1. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.40: 1. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.40: 1. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.40: 1. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.40: 1. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.40: 1. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.40: 1. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.40: 1. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.40: 1. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 3. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 4. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 5. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 6. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 7. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 8. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 9. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 10. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10.

2.40: 1. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore) 9-10. 2. PENNYMOR PRINCE (J. J. Moore)

Ince driven by passion born of deprivation

The style of England's anchor against Portugal tonight was forged in childhood. Glenn Moore met him

PAUL INCE has played for some of European football's greatest clubs, won titles and championships and become the first black player to captain England, but he has still not fulfilled all the ambitions he had as a parentless schoolboy in Ilford.

While Ince justifiably wants to be recognised as more than just a hard-tackling, hard-running midfielder he accepts that it is his deep-seated passion for the game which marks him out and which drives him on in World Cup year.

"It comes from within," he said after training at Bisham Abbey yesterday. "I've been without my parents since I was 10 and without my father since I was two so I've always had to depend on myself. I've always had that desire to do well. I didn't do well at school so I wanted to be a footballer. I appreciate being a footballer because without football I wouldn't have anything else."

"These World Cup finals are very important to me," added the 30-year-old. "In 1994 we didn't qualify and I was very disappointed. Obviously the older you get you think it might not happen so it was important for me to qualify. It might be my last World Cup though you never know. Realistically, looking at people like David Beckham coming through, this is going to be my last World Cup. It is the pinnacle of the sport and it is important to play in a World Cup and do well."

Ince is confident England will do well in France and he only has to glance around him as he lines up for England against Portugal at Wembley tonight to know why. He will look at Alan Shearer ahead of him, turn and see at Tony Adams and David Seaman behind him, and feel an inner confidence. The back-three which took England to the brink of Euro '96 success will be back in harmony and, for Ince, it could not be more timely.

"Not many teams are better than us in the middle of the park, through the spine of the team," said Ince. "If you are strong in the centre you have a chance of winning the World Cup."

The quartet have only played

together once before under Hoddle and nine times in all for England. Only once, in their first union against the Netherlands in Rotterdam in late 1993 when they were all less experienced, have England been beaten.

The four did play the hulk of the Euro '96 games and Ince is pleased that they are coming together again as the World Cup build-up approaches a crucial stage.

Ince, who will be winning his 38th cap tonight, said of tonight's game: "Portugal are a good side and it's not an easy game to get a result in, but we've got a full squad back and playing at home we're expected to put on a good performance."

"We've still got to be upbeat, we've just had a couple of hiccups. We had a weakened side against Chile and got caught, while the Switzerland game was not the best performance but there is no reason for the bad vibes I've been hearing."

For himself, he hopes the appreciation he has among his peers will be extended to a wider audience by the World Cup. "I'm not a dirty player," he said. "The new ruling on tackles from behind doesn't worry me at all as I'm hard but fair and in midfield you don't really find yourself in a situation where you tackle from behind."

"I like to be involved but I don't think I'm physical. I've got more to offer. I score goals, I set up goals. There is more to my game than tackling but because I have a desire to win all the time people just look at that."

One recalls his pass for Shearer's goal in Poland as an example of his qualities which, under Hoddle have been given freer expression in an England scene which provides a break from a disappointing end to Liverpool's season.

"We showed at Highbury and Old Trafford what a good team we are but we've under-achieved," he said. "No disrespect to the teams involved but we lost at home to Barnsley, Leicester and Southampton, that is where we lost the championship. But we're not far away."



Paul Ince (left) shares a mood of contemplation with his England colleague Ian Wright at Bisham Abbey this week

Photograph: Robert Hallam

Wright reveals rare grasp of striking dilemma

Ian Wright is relaxed about his Arsenal and England prospects. Clive White reports

somed after a sticky start to the point where it would be seen as pure folly on the part of Arsene Wenger, the coach, to risk unsettling the side by recalling Wright. And to his credit, Wright fully appreciates that.

"If I was Christopher Weir or Nicolas Anelka I'd be really gutted if the boss left me out and put someone else in and I personally wouldn't want that," he said. "I've never had a problem coming off the bench in respect of trying to prove my worth and if I can do that and the boss still wants to play Nicolas or Christo-

pher, that's his prerogative and he won't get a problem from me with that. We've spoken about it at length."

If only all players were as understanding, most managers must think. Wright has learned to accept, no doubt with a little help from Wenger, that he is no longer an automatic choice at the club. During the last three months of inactivity, he has had to show considerable patience too, not a virtue, as he admits, with which he is readily associated. "It's been hard because I've been in a position I've never

been in in my life before, i.e. being injured as long as I have been while the team are genuine challengers for the Premiership."

His injuries, a hamstring, a torn cartilage and a groin, were not, he maintains, the result of advancing years but just "absolute bad luck". Clearly his sessions with Glenn Hoddle's faith healer, Eileen Drewery, have had a beneficial effect on his powers of positive thought. "I'm very pleased with the fitness at the moment. I look fantastic - my wife can vouch for that," he said. "I'll be ready to play this weekend but the boss will probably want to see me in a full week's training and flying."

The best that Wright can

probably hope for with regards his dual aims for club and country is a return to the Arsenal side once the championship has been secured, which, judging by United's recent indifferent form, could be with a couple of games to go. He could then prove to Hoddle his match fitness prior to England's last three warm-up matches before the finals.

Paul Ince for one is rooting for him. "I hope he goes," said the Liverpool midfielder. "I remember when he was left out in '92 for the European Championships after he had finished the season as top scorer and he was hurt by that. It's not just what he brings to the spirit of the side, but also his quality as a striker."

Brown sets Burley World Cup deadline

By Phil Shaw in Edinburgh

CRAIG BURLEY'S prospects of sharing in Scotland's World Cup summer are up in the air today, exactly four weeks before the Celtic midfielder must board a transatlantic flight or accept that he will miss the finals.

On 20 May, the 22 players who will comprise Craig Brown's squad in France leave for the United States to play warm-up matches against the Americans and Colombia. Bur-

ley, having pulled out of tonight's friendly against Finland at Easter Road because of sciatica, must use the interim period to convince the Scotland manager that he could withstand the rigours of the most arduous tournament of all.

The former Chelsea player's absence from what is effectively a final eliminator for the US and France follows his withdrawal from last month's home defeat by Denmark. Burley normally plays wing-back for Scotland, yet has impressed as

playmaker during Celtic's championship push.

"It has been pointed out to Craig that we can't go to a World Cup with a doubt over anyone," said Brown, who tends to trust in physiotherapy rather than faith healing. "He has been having treatment in London and has now gone back to Celtic for some more, but he assures me he'll be OK."

Kevin Gallacher (throat infection) and Andy Goram (hamstring strain) added to Scotland's worries yesterday.

Should the Blackburn striker fail to recover in time, Celtic's Simon Donnelly is almost certain to start.

Scotland's record in friendlies under Brown is as ordinary as their competitive results have been outstanding. While he would settle for flopping against Finland and beating, or even holding, Brazil on 10 June, victory would clearly be advantageous for morale. "If we don't beat a team who haven't qualified, doubts will be cast," he admitted.

The Finns, coached by

Denmark's triumphant manager from Euro '92, Richard Moller Nielsen, should provide stern if eminently beatable opposition. They were within minutes of reaching France before being thwarted by a Hungarian goal, and are likely to include the Rangers pair Antti Niemi and Jonatan Johansson, plus Motherwell's Simo Velekari and the Wolves striker Misa Patealain.

Their presence has not exactly encouraged a run on tickets, despite this being the

capital's first round-half international for six decades. Hibernian last hosted such a fixture 110 years ago, when a Scotland XI skipped by one R. Smellie (sic) trounced Wales 5-1 at the Old Easter Road site. A similar outcome tonight might be asking too much, but a side again led by Colin Hendry will be expected to win with style.

SCOTLAND (probable 3-5-2): Leighton (Aberdeen); Callaghan (Preston), Hendry (Blackburn), Dooly (Derby), McManus (Lambert), McManus (Blackburn), Collins (Monaco), Boyd (Celtic), Donnelly (Celtic), Booth (Barnsley, Dortmund).

McCarthy prepares for a tough night

By Guy Hodgson in Dublin

ENGLAND versus Germany or Scotland would shade it in terms of football's historical significance but a rivalry bubbles quite healthily between the old country and Argentina. "Hand of God", "Animals", matches between them create more soundbites than Tony Blair's speech writer.

It is by no means beyond the bounds of probability that the two will meet again in the second round of the World Cup this summer - indeed it is a strong possibility - so tonight's friendly between the South Americans and the Republic of Ireland here will be watched with more than passing interest by Glenn Hoddle.

Whether the England coach will learn anything is less certain.

If Hoddle has his critics then Daniel Passarella, Argentina's coach, has them in spades after a lamentable defeat by Israel in Jerusalem last Wednesday. The Walling Wall was wholly apposite as the press in Buenos Aires laid into a man whose lifting of the 1978 World Cup elevated him to near God-like status.

Nice players, shame about the team was the gist, so tonight's friendly should be somewhat spicier than some of the bland fare laid out in pre-France friendlies in recent months. Ireland need to find form in time for their European Championship qualifiers, which begin against Croatia in September. Argentina's needs are more urgent.

A settled side would help, although Passarella is hiding his best 11 splendidly. Fernando

Redondo, an extravagantly gifted playmaker with Real Madrid, has not made it to Dublin partly because his long hairstyle did not appeal to the coach who is rumoured also to frown upon ear-rings. Gabriel Batistuta, a prolific scorer with his Italian club Fiorentina, and his country, also fell out with him for nine months.

Passarella's hard-line line-up flopped against Israel and, as they play Brazil in Rio next Wednesday, they could conceivably arrive at the World Cup with spirits lower than their boot laces unless they find some form at Lansdowne Road tonight. "They'll have the full metal jacket on for our game," was how the Irish manager, Mick McCarthy, put it.

McCarthy's own emphasis on the European Championships is underlined by his in-

clusion of Wolves' 17-year-old Robbie Keane as a striker largely because the first choice, David Connolly, will be suspended for the first two qualifying games.

He will also give West Bromwich Albion's Kevin Kilbane a third cap as winger cum support striker in an attempt to find a cutting edge tonight. "If we've had a problem it's been scoring goals at home," McCarthy said. "I'm hoping Kevin can move forward and we take the game to them."

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND (probable): Given (Newcastle); Irwin (Manchester United), Brown (Coventry), Babb (Liverpool), Sturmon (Aston Villa), Kelly (Leeds), Callaghan (Derby), Kinsella (Charlton), Kilbane (West Brom), Quinn (Sunderland), Keane (Wolves).

ARGENTINA (3-5-2): Burgos (River Plate); Ayala (Napoli), Sensi (Parma), Di Vito (Lugano, Swi), Almeyda (Lazio), Di Simeone (Internazionale), Di Vito (Sampdoria), Di Vito (Milan), Di Vito (Lazio), Di Vito (Lazio), Di Vito (Lazio).

Murdock may Danish return for Schmeichel make debut

THE uncapped Colin Murdock or Darren Patterson, whose last cap was two years ago, will partner Steve Morrow at the heart of the Northern Ireland defence in today's friendly against Switzerland.

The manager, Lawrie McMenamy, who claims he will not make many changes to the side which beat Slovakia 1-0 last month, has confidence in both players. "I saw them play well in the B international against the Republic and I'm very relaxed about the situation," he said.

NORTHERN IRELAND (4-4-2 probable): Fettes (Blackburn), Jordan (Luton), A. Hughes (Newcastle), Murdock (Preston), Patterson (Luton), Morrow (QPR), James (West Ham), Lennon (Lancaster), Gormley (Preston), McHugh (Widowmaker), Dowle (QPR), Quinn (West Brom), SWITZERLAND (3-4-3 probable): Zuberbühler (Schalke), Cornet (Schalke), Neuhäuser (Xanten), Hanebrink (Blackburn), Toller (Stuttgart), Vega (Tottenham), Schuster (Hull), Varga (Tottenham), Schuster (Hull), Varga (Tottenham), Schuster (Hull), Varga (Tottenham).

THE return of the Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel to international duty today will provide a welcome fillip for the club's manager, Alex Ferguson, as his side falter in their challenge for the championship.

Schmeichel's recovery, however, was tempered by the news that United's Norwegian international Ronny Johnsen needs surgery on his right knee for an injury suffered in United's game against Liverpool on 10 April.

Schmeichel was substituted during Saturday's 1-1 draw with Newcastle at Old Trafford but is now hopeful of playing for Denmark in their World Cup warm-up against Norway today.

Schmeichel said: "It is me alone who makes the decision. It is important for me to play this match and I am working day and night to be ready. I can already

feel that I am getting better."

The 34-year-old Dane suffered a thigh injury on Saturday and was expected to miss the reigning champions' last three Premiership matches.

The latest development will come as welcome news to Ferguson, with United still hoping that the League leaders, Arsenal, will slip up in the title race.

Johnsen, meanwhile, will miss tonight's friendly after doctors diagnosed the cartilage damage during training. "The pain was so intense that it was not realistic for him to play," the team doctor, Tyggve Kase, said.

Johnsen hopes Manchester United will approve an operation later this week and that he will be fully recovered in two to four weeks, missing United's three final games of the season. Johnsen should recover in

time to join Norway in France. Kase said: "If the operation is carried out within a week or two, he should be ready in time for the World Cup."

Arsenal's young striker Nicolas Anelka is included among France's four strikers for today's friendly against Sweden in Stockholm. Also hoping to impress is his Highbury team-mate Patrick Vieira and the West Ham goalkeeper Bernard Lama, who has displaced Fabien Barthez as understudy to Auxerre's Lionel Charbonnier.

The Nigeria coach, Bora Milutinovic, is expected to travel from Germany to Gresty Road on Saturday to check on the form of the Crewe Alexandra goalkeeper, Ademola Bankole. Tonight the Olympic gold medal winners take on the European champions in Cologne.

The waiting is over.

The new global standard has been set.

Only 3Com can offer you a complete range of modems to the new V.90 standard.

3Com U.S. Robotics

For more details phone Freephone 0800 225252 or visit our website at www.3com.co.uk/indep and click on the V90 logo.

3Com
56
STANDARD
COMPLIANT
V.90

3Com

مكتبة الأمل

The referee who sent himself off

Football

AN AMATEUR referee who nunched a player and then showed himself the red card has been banned from the game for six weeks.

Melvin Sylvester, a 42-year-old school caretaker, was refereeing a recreational match between the Southampton Arms and Hursbourne Tarrant British Legion in the Andover and District Sunday League.

Sylvester claimed he lost his temper when one of the players, 27-year-old Richard Curd, pushed him. "I was sorely provoked. I punched him several times after he had pushed me from behind. He then swore. I couldn't take any more. I blew my top," he said.

Sylvester said he showed himself the red card, sending himself off. He was replaced by a spectator for the rest of the match.

The Hampshire Football Association imposed a six-week ban and a £20 fine on Sylvester, who has refereed more than 40 games in the past two years.

"I'm furious," he said. "The disciplinary committee have got their priorities all wrong. They've convicted me of assault but the circumstances have not

been shown. They've taken the side of the player."

Curd, who denied provoking the incident, was charged with insulting or abusive behaviour. His case will be heard shortly by the local football authorities.

Leading Italian referees are asking for a helping hand, or at least a third "eye". They have asked the world game's governing body, Fifa, if they can experiment with an electronic "eye" in the goalposts for Serie A matches.

The move follows a controversy at the weekend when a referee failed to see the ball cross Juventus' goal-line and ruled out what should have been an Empoli equaliser.

Italian FA's president, Luciano Nizzola, plans to invite a number of electronic companies to offer a solution to the goal-line problem. But any experiment in matches would require Fifa approval.

"I've been thinking about this for a few weeks," Nizzola said. We need to find a mechanism capable of showing unequivocally whether the ball has crossed the line.

"Obviously, we need Fifa's agreement, but our federation could put itself forward for experiments to determine 'certain goals' even from next season, for example."

Sunderland ticket offer to Newcastle

SUNDERLAND have extended the hand of friendship across one of football's fiercest club rivalries by offering Newcastle their full allocation of tickets for the FA Cup final.

The gesture, making extra tickets available for Magpies fans to cheer on their team in his year's Wembley final against Arsenal, is designed to promote relations between the two north-east clubs and their fans.

Both clubs were forced to ban away supporters from derby fixtures last season because of police advice. Sunderland's chairman, Bob Murray, said: "I was as disappointed as anyone last season with the situation between the two clubs but want to help build bridges for the future."

"I would like the Newcastle United board to respond positively to our offer because they also have an important role to play in improving relations in the region."

Sunderland have stressed that they would like their tickets to go to "traditional and loyal Newcastle United fans, not to bond holders or corporate supporters".

A spokesman for Newcastle's Independent Supporters' Association, John Regan, said: "Obviously we welcome the gesture from Sunderland and hope that these tickets do find their way to genuine supporters."

"We have some sympathy with Newcastle United because there are so many fans that some will have to be disappointed. But it is vital that the most loyal supporters are given priority, and we want the club to give a guarantee that this will be the case."

Sunderland, meanwhile, have increased the capacity of their Stadium of Light home to more than 41,000 for their final home game of the season against Stoke City on Saturday.

An extra 700 seats have been installed, and subject to safety approval, tickets will go on sale on Friday.

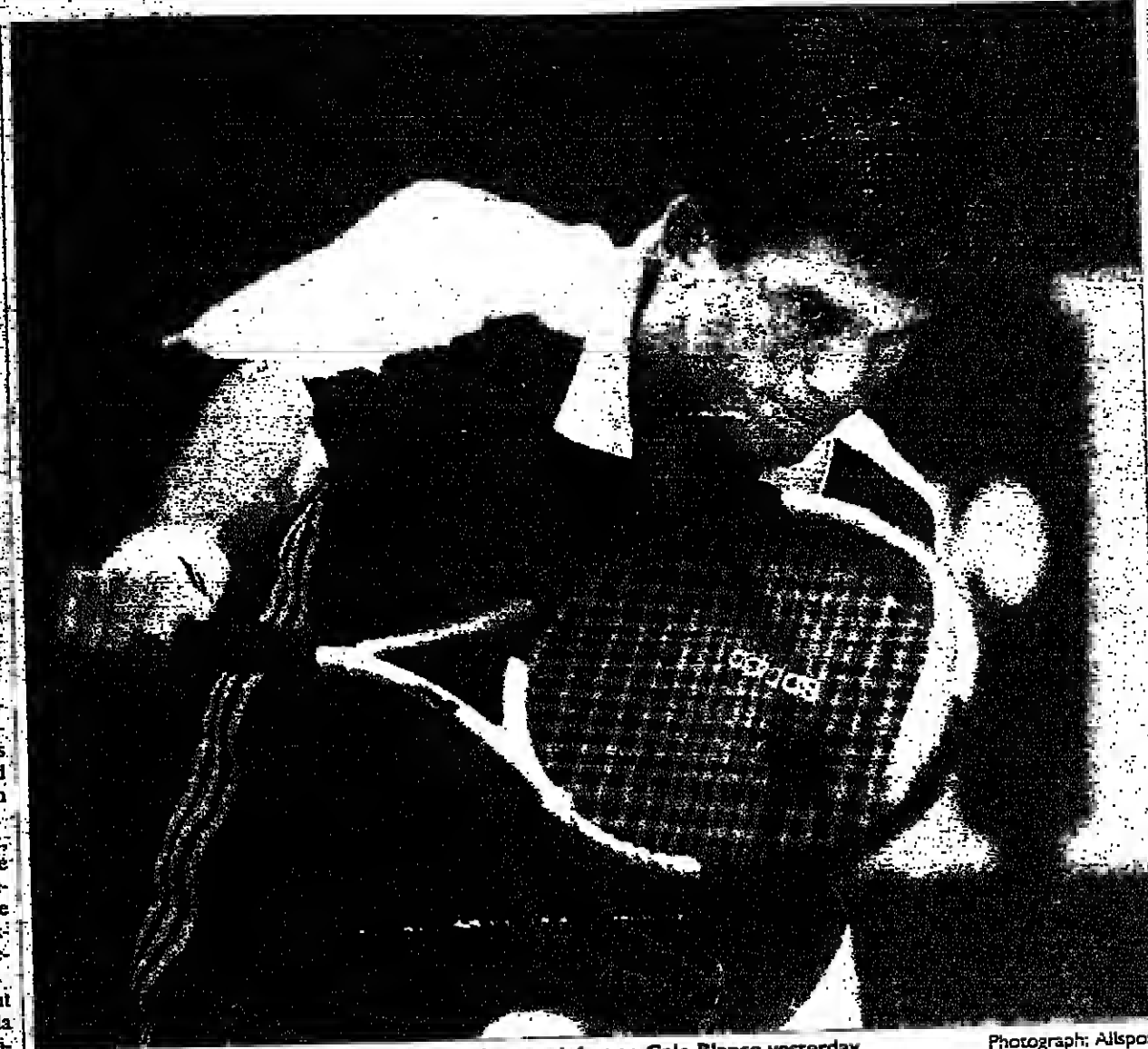
they would like their tickets to go to "traditional and loyal Newcastle United fans, not to bond holders or corporate supporters".

A spokesman for Newcastle's Independent Supporters' Association, John Regan, said: "Obviously we welcome the gesture from Sunderland and hope that these tickets do find their way to genuine supporters."

"We have some sympathy with Newcastle United because there are so many fans that some will have to be disappointed. But it is vital that the most loyal supporters are given priority, and we want the club to give a guarantee that this will be the case."

Sunderland, meanwhile, have increased the capacity of their Stadium of Light home to more than 41,000 for their final home game of the season against Stoke City on Saturday.

An extra 700 seats have been installed, and subject to safety approval, tickets will go on sale on Friday.



Tim Henman hits a backhand during his straight-sets defeat to Galo Blanco yesterday

Photograph: Allsport

Henman draws a Blanco

Tennis
By John Roberts
in Monte Carlo

IT IS not often that Tim Henman can be mentioned in the same breath as Thomas Muster as a clay court player, but both were made to appear novices on the slow red surface yesterday by Spanish opponents who went about their business confident of selecting the right shot at the precise moment.

Henman was subjected to similar embarrassment. Crowned as a champion on clay in Barcelona on Sunday, the American was given a lesson in groundstroke play by his compatriot Andre Agassi in the first round of the Monte Carlo Open last year.

Agassi's win, 6-2, 6-1, was a bonus for the spectators, who can look forward to a renewal of the rivalry between the Las Vegas and Pete Sampras. Sampras leads their head-to-head 12-9. They last played on clay in the quarter-finals of the 1992 French Open. Agassi winning in straight sets.

Henman, although ranked No 15 in the world, is a novice on clay, and that was painfully apparent as the 23-year-old from Oxford struggled to com-

pete against Galo Blanco, a product of the Barcelona state whose comparative lack of height (5ft 8in) does not deter him from an aggressive baseline style. A qualifier here, his game was good enough to take him to the quarter-finals of the French Open last year.

Blanco's victory, 6-2, 6-4, was as comprehensive in its way as Carlos Moya's dismantling of Muster, 6-0, 6-3 in 59 minutes. The old king of clay and former world No 1 was unable to counter the consistency of Moya's anticipation, movement and shot-making. "Maybe I'm trying too hard," said Muster, whose supremacy on clay has been in decline since he lost his opening match here last year.

Against the Frenchman Fabrice Santoro, when seeded No 2, Muster, 30, has provided a beacon for Austrian tennis, although his play is to grass what Henman's is to clay. Henman's difficulty with Europe's favoured outdoor surface is common among British players. Buster Mottram, in 1981, was the last Brit to win a match here (against the Swiss Heinz Günthardt, now Steffi Graf's coach).

Henman made his debut in Monte Carlo yesterday backed by a day-court record amounting to a Davis Cup win in Kiev and one victory on the main-stream ATP Tour, against a Spaniard, Roberto Carretero, who was ranked No 334 in the world when he retired hurt in

the first round of the Italian Open last year with Henman leading, 4-6, 7-5, 2-1.

Blanco's win yesterday would have been achieved with less fuss had his nerves not tightened when he was serving for the match at 5-2 in the second set. Henman, given a sign of hope, managed to break for the only time in the match. The British No 2 was unable to sustain his effort beyond an extraordinary penultimate game in which he double-faulted four times, hit two aces and saved five match points. Blanco then served out the match, winning with a typical backhand crosscourt pass on his seventh match point.

"I've got to learn to develop my game to be able to play on clay," Henman said. "It's a huge challenge for me. It's never going to be easy. I've got to serve consistently and be patient enough to create opportunities to move forward on my opponent's serve. I'm not going to beat a player like Blanco at his own game."

Henman intends to spend the remainder of the week practising here before competing in next week's tournament in Munich, where the ATP Tour's experiment with coaches on the court will afford David Felgate an opportunity to have a word with his protégé between sets.

Emerson on show in Eastbourne

ROY EMERSON, twice a Wimbledon singles champion, heads a stellar list of former Grand Slam winners in a special mixed doubles event to be staged at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, on 15 June.

Emerson, the only man to win singles and doubles titles in all four Grand Slams, 12 in singles and 16 in doubles, joins the American Sherwood Stewart, South African Cliff Drysdale,

and Britain's John Lloyd in this round-robin event.

Virginia Wade, the 1977 Wimbledon champion, American Liz Smylie and Russian Olga Morozova, now coaching in Britain, will also be involved.

The event will be a showcase opener for the Direct Line Insurance Women's grass court championships at Eastbourne from 16 to 20 June.

Bond makes an early exit

Snooker

NIGEL BOND began his 1997-98 season in style by winning the Scottish Masters title last October in Motherwell. But his campaign at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, ended limply yesterday as he lost 10-5 to left-hander Mark King at the Embassy World Championship.

Bond, the world No 8, lost eight frames out of a possible nine after establishing a 4-2 advantage in Monday night's opening session. "There was just nothing there," admitted the 1995 Sheffield runner-up to Stephen Hendry.

"As the season has gone on my confidence has drained away. In the last few tournaments I've just been going through the motions."

"To be honest I'll be glad to put the cue away because I've done my head in the way I've played recently."

Bond becomes the second top 16 player to miss out on a second-round place this year, leaving King to meet Alain Robidou or Matthew Stevens for a place in the quarter-finals.

King is now likely to gain promotion to the elite 16 next season, replacing Thailand's James Wattana, who was beaten 10-9 by Fergal O'Brien on Sunday.

"To be honest I'm not even thinking about the rankings," said the 24-year-old Romford player. "I was under so much pressure out there it was unbelievable. Normally I'm good at coping with it but today I found it hard to deal with."

King appeared to have missed his chance of an easy win when just a handful of balls from victory. Clearing up, he missed the yellow off his own spot. Fortunately for him, though, Bond was playing too badly to take advantage - and King gratefully potted a frame-half blue.

Earlier, John Parrott had no problem adding four frames to his overnight lead of 6-3 against the Leeds qualifier Peter Lines. The 1991 world champion believes it will take a good player to stop him bridging a seven-year gap if he repeats his first-round standard.

Another top seed in trouble is the world No 15 Darren Morgan. The Welshman will resume this morning 5-4 down against the Ulsterman Jason Prince, one of eight players making debuts at Sheffield this year.

Conference scents southern success

Rugby League

By Dave Hadfield

THE long held, but never realised, dream of becoming a truly national sport took a step closer to reality yesterday as the House of Commons hosted the launch of the Rugby League Conference.

The former Southern Conference, expanded from nine to 15 teams after a pilot season last year, now encompasses clubs from Chester to Crawley and Cheltenham to Ipswich - all outside the game's traditional boundaries. Several have already declared an interest in applying for membership of the Second Division of the Rugby League.

"I can see it happening and we will then replace them with other clubs coming through," the Conference's chairman, Lionel Hunt, said. "It will be a conveyor belt. It's going to go on and on until every sizeable town in the country has a rugby league team."

Many of the Conference clubs have struck up thriving partnerships with Super League teams and one, Worcester, has

changed its name to Worcester Saints because of the link with St Helens has been so good. Fixtures start on 9 May, leading to a grand final in Cheltenham on 8 August.

Sir Geoffrey Lofthouse, the chairman of the Parliamentary Rugby League Group, who hosted the launch, is urging the Heritage Secretary, Chris Smith, to add the Challenge Cup final to the list of protected events which must be shown on terrestrial television. Negotiations are well underway for a new three-year contract when the current one with the BBC ends next year, but Sir Geoffrey described his campaign as "an insurance policy".

A battle is brewing between rival bids from Cardiff and Swansea for a Super League franchise from next season.

Super League's managing director, Maurice Lindsay, has already described the Swansea application as the favourite, but a Cardiff consortium - including the former Wiggo chairman Jack Robinson and the former Oldham coach Peter Tunks - is arguing that its proposal is stronger.

Sporting Digest

Lomu produces sprint record

Rugby Union

THE All Blacks wing Jonah Lomu set a New Zealand rugby print record yesterday during Auckland Blues' fitness testing.

Lomu recorded 1.6sec for the 0-metre sprint from a standing start - the fastest since data collection began four years ago.

The players were put through the routines after the Blues' management, the national fitness coordinator and the All Blacks panel were dissatisfied with their test results a fortnight ago.

All New Zealand Super-12 squads receive regular testing and the Blues were examined two days after their match against Queensland, when on average their times were lower than the other squads in the competition.

Bugner burgled while in ring

Boxing

IOE BUGNER'S joy at landing a world heavyweight title fight 25 years after losing to Muhammad Ali was soured by the discovery that thieves had unsacked his home while he was trading blows in the ring.

Bugner, 48, earned a chance at the vacant World Boxing Federation title against James

"Bonecrusher" Smith by winning the Pan Asian championship on Monday, only to return home and find his house had been burgled.

Lennox Lewis's mandatory World Boxing Council heavyweight title defence against Croatia's Zeljko Mavrovic has been given a purse-offer deadline of 29 May.

Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 2 Cleveland 0; Detroit 2 New York Yankees 1; Tampa Bay 2 Chicago White Sox 1; St Louis Cardinals 7 Minnesota 4; Texas 1 Baltimore 7; Kansas City 7 Oakland 5; Tampa Bay 5 Anaheim 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York Mets 6 Cincinnati 2; Milwaukee 3 San Francisco 2; Chicago Cubs 2 Los Angeles 1; Atlanta 3 Colorado 3 (first game); Colorado 2 Atlanta 7 (second game); Montreal 5 Houston 4; Florida 4 Arizona 3 (San Diego-Pittsburgh postponed).

Basketball: NBA: New Jersey 101 Detroit 100; Philadelphia 107 Toronto 78; Atlanta 101 Miami 98; Charlotte 98 Orlando 76; Los Angeles 102 Utah 98; Seattle 90 Portland 82; Phoenix 103 Houston 83; San Antonio 98 Detroit 82; Vancouver 102 Sacramento 101; Los Angeles 101 New York 98; Dallas 97 Houston 96; San Antonio 98 Detroit 82; Vancouver 102 Sacramento 101; Los Angeles 101 New York 98; Dallas 97 Houston 96; San Antonio 98 Detroit 82; Vancouver 102 Sacramento 101.

Final Standings

Atlantic Division: Miami 55, NY 47, Phil 46, NY 43, NY 40, NY 39, NY 38, NY 37, NY 36, NY 35, NY 34, NY 33, NY 32, NY 31, NY 30, NY 29, NY 28, NY 27, NY 26, NY 25, NY 24, NY 23, NY 22, NY 21, NY 20, NY 19, NY 18, NY 17, NY 16, NY 15, NY 14, NY 13, NY 12, NY 11, NY 10, NY 9, NY 8, NY 7, NY 6, NY 5, NY 4, NY 3, NY 2, NY 1.

Central Division: Chicago 52, NY 47, Phil 46, NY 43, NY 40, NY 39, NY 38, NY 37, NY 36, NY 35, NY 34, NY 33, NY 32, NY 31, NY 30, NY 29, NY 28, NY 27, NY 26, NY 25, NY 24, NY 23, NY 22, NY 21, NY 20, NY 19, NY 18, NY 17, NY 16, NY 15, NY 14, NY 13, NY 12, NY 11, NY 10, NY 9, NY 8, NY 7, NY 6, NY 5, NY 4, NY 3, NY 2, NY 1.

Eastern Division: NY 47, Phil 46, NY 43, NY 40, NY 39, NY 38, NY 37, NY 36, NY 35, NY 34, NY 33, NY 32, NY 31, NY 30, NY 29, NY 28, NY 27, NY 26, NY 25, NY 24, NY 23, NY 22, NY 21, NY 20, NY 19, NY 18, NY 17, NY 16, NY 15, NY 14, NY 13, NY 12, NY 11, NY 10, NY 9, NY 8, NY 7, NY 6, NY 5, NY 4, NY 3, NY 2, NY 1.

Western Division: NY 47, Phil 46, NY 43, NY 40, NY 39, NY 38, NY 37, NY 36, NY 35, NY 34, NY 33, NY 32, NY 31, NY 30, NY 29, NY 28, NY 27, NY 26, NY 25, NY 24, NY 23, NY 22, NY 21, NY 20, NY 19, NY 18, NY 17, NY 16, NY 15, NY 14, NY 13, NY 12, NY 11, NY 10, NY 9, NY 8, NY 7, NY 6, NY 5, NY 4, NY 3, NY 2, NY 1.

Baseball: AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 2 Cleveland 0; Detroit 2 New York Yankees 1; Tampa Bay 2 Chicago White Sox 1; St Louis Cardinals 7 Minnesota 4; Texas 1 Baltimore 7; Kansas City 7 Oakland 5; Tampa Bay 5 Anaheim 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York Mets 6 Cincinnati 2; Milwaukee 3 San Francisco 2; Chicago Cubs 2 Los Angeles 1; Atlanta 3 Colorado 3 (first game); Colorado 2 Atlanta 7 (second game); Montreal 5 Houston 4; Florida 4 Arizona 3 (San Diego-Pittsburgh postponed).

Basketball: NBA: New Jersey 101 Detroit 100; Philadelphia 107 Toronto 78; Atlanta 101 Miami 98; Charlotte 98 Orlando 76; Los Angeles 102 Utah 98; Seattle 90 Portland 82; Phoenix 103 Houston 83; San Antonio 98 Detroit 82; Vancouver 102 Sacramento 101; Los Angeles 101 New York 98; Dallas 97 Houston 96; San Antonio 98 Detroit 82; Vancouver 102 Sacramento 101.

Football

Preston yesterday announced their new 6000-seat North Stand will be called the Bill Shankly Kop after their former player and legendary Liverpool manager. Shankly made 297 appearances for the Despond club from 1933 before beginning his managerial career at Carlisle in 1945.

The Oxford manager, Malcolm Shanks, has signed a three-year contract with the First Division club.

Byth Spartans, of the Unibond League Premier Division, have been deducted 10 points for fielding ineligible players. The club has also been disqualified from the Unibond League President's Cup.

Swindon have signed the 21-year-old central defender Adam Williams on a free transfer from Coventry.

MONDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Coventry 1, Wolves 0; Luton 1, Ipswich 0; Millwall 1, Reading 0; Notts 1, Barnsley 0; Oxford 1, Shrewsbury 0; Peterborough 1, Exeter 0; Plymouth 1, Torquay 0; Southend 1, Weymouth 0; Swindon 1, Walsley 0; Wrexham 1, Colchester 0; York 1, Grimsby 0.

Baseball: AMERICAN LEAGUE: Boston 2 Cleveland 0; Detroit 2 New York Yankees 1; Tampa Bay 2 Chicago White Sox 1; St Louis Cardinals 7 Minnesota 4; Texas 1 Baltimore 7; Kansas City 7 Oakland 5; Tampa Bay 5 Anaheim 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York Mets 6 Cincinnati 2; Milwaukee 3 San Francisco 2; Chicago Cubs 2 Los Angeles 1; Atlanta 3 Colorado 3 (first game); Colorado 2 Atlanta 7 (second game); Montreal 5 Houston 4; Florida 4 Arizona 3 (San Diego-Pittsburgh postponed).

Rallying

CATALAN RALLY (Lleida to Lleida): 1. D. Auladell, 2. J. Llorens, 3. J. Llorens, 4. J. Llorens, 5. J. Llorens, 6. J. Llorens, 7. J. Llorens, 8. J. Llorens, 9. J. Llorens, 10. J. Llorens, 11. J. Llorens, 12. J. Llorens, 13. J. Llorens, 14. J. Llorens, 15. J. Llorens, 16. J. Llorens, 17. J. Llorens, 18. J. Llorens, 19. J. Llorens, 20. J. Llorens, 21. J. Llorens, 22. J. Llorens, 23. J. Llorens, 24. J. Llorens, 25. J. Llorens, 26. J. Llorens, 27. J. Llorens, 28. J. Llorens, 29. J. Llorens, 30. J. Llorens, 31. J. Llorens, 32. J. Llorens, 33. J. Llorens, 34. J. Llorens, 35. J. Llorens, 36. J. Llorens, 37. J. Llorens, 38. J. Llorens, 39. J. Llorens, 40. J. Llorens, 41. J. Llorens, 42. J. Llorens, 43. J. Llorens, 44. J. Llorens, 45. J. Llorens, 46. J. Llorens, 47. J. Llorens, 48. J. Llorens, 49. J. Llorens, 50. J. Llorens, 51. J. Llorens, 52. J. Llorens, 53. J. Llorens, 54. J. Llorens, 55. J. Llorens, 56. J. Llorens, 57. J. Llorens, 58. J. Llorens, 59. J. Llorens, 60. J. Llorens, 61. J. Llorens, 62. J. Llorens, 63. J. Llorens, 64. J. Llorens, 65. J. Llorens, 66. J. Llorens, 67. J. Llorens, 68. J. Llorens, 69. J. Llorens, 70. J. Llorens, 71. J. Llorens, 72. J. Llorens, 73. J. Llorens, 74. J. Llorens, 75. J. Llorens, 76. J. Llorens, 77. J. Llorens, 78. J. Llorens, 79. J. Llorens, 80. J. Llorens, 81. J. Llorens, 82. J. Llorens, 83. J. Llorens, 84. J. Llorens, 85. J. Llorens, 86. J. Llorens, 87. J. Llorens, 88. J. Llorens, 89. J. Llorens, 90. J. Llorens, 91. J. Llorens, 92. J. Llorens, 93. J. Llorens, 94. J. Llorens, 95. J. Llorens, 96. J. Llorens, 97. J. Llorens, 98. J. Llorens, 99. J. Llorens, 100. J. Llorens, 101. J. Llorens, 102. J. Llorens, 103. J. Llorens, 104. J. Llorens, 105. J. Llorens, 106. J. Llorens, 107. J. Llorens, 108. J. Llorens, 109. J. Llorens, 110. J. Llorens, 111. J. Llorens, 112. J. Llorens, 113. J. Llorens, 114. J. Llorens, 115. J. Llorens, 116. J. Llorens, 117. J. Llorens, 118. J. Llorens, 119. J. Llorens, 120. J. Llorens, 121. J. Llorens, 122. J. Llorens, 123. J. Llorens, 124. J. Llorens, 125. J. Llorens, 126. J. Llorens, 127. J. Llorens, 128. J. Llorens, 129. J. Llorens, 130. J. Llorens, 131. J. Llorens, 132. J. Llorens, 133. J. Llorens, 134. J. Llorens, 135. J. Llorens, 136. J. Llorens, 137. J. Llorens, 138. J. Llorens, 139. J. Llorens, 140. J. Llorens, 141. J. Llorens, 142. J. Llorens, 143. J. Llorens, 144. J. Llorens, 145. J. Llorens, 146. J. Llorens, 147. J. Llorens, 148. J. Llorens, 149. J. Llorens, 150. J. Llorens, 151. J. Llorens, 152. J. Llorens, 153. J. Llorens, 154. J. Llorens, 155. J. Llorens, 156. J. Llorens, 157. J. Llorens, 158. J. Llorens, 159. J. Llorens, 160. J. Llorens, 161. J. Llorens, 162. J. Llorens, 163. J. Llorens, 164. J. Llorens, 165. J. Llorens, 166. J. Llorens, 167. J. Llorens, 168. J. Llorens, 169. J. Llorens, 170. J. Llorens, 171. J. Llorens, 172. J. Llorens, 173. J. Llorens, 174. J. Llorens, 175. J. Llorens, 176. J. Llorens, 177. J. Llorens, 178. J. Llorens, 179. J. Llorens, 180. J. Llorens, 181. J. Llorens, 182. J. Llorens, 183. J. Llorens, 184. J. Llorens, 185. J. Llorens, 186. J. Llorens, 187. J. Llorens, 188. J. Llorens, 189. J. Llorens, 190. J. Llorens, 191. J. Llorens, 192. J. Llorens, 193. J. Llorens, 194. J. Llorens, 195. J. Llorens, 196. J. Llorens, 197. J. Llorens, 198. J. Llorens, 199. J. Llorens, 200. J. Llorens, 201. J. Llorens, 202. J. Llorens, 203. J. Llorens, 204. J. Llorens, 205. J. Llorens, 206. J. Llorens, 207. J. Llorens, 208. J. Llorens, 209. J. Llorens, 210. J. Llorens, 211. J. Llorens, 212. J. Llorens, 213. J. Llorens, 214. J. Llorens, 215. J. Llorens, 216. J. Llorens, 217. J. Llorens, 218. J. Llorens, 219. J. Llorens, 220. J. Llorens, 221. J. Llorens, 222. J. Llorens, 223. J. Llorens, 224. J. Llorens, 225. J. Llorens, 226. J. Llorens, 227. J. Llorens, 228. J. Llorens, 229. J. Llorens, 230. J. Llorens, 231. J. Llorens, 232. J. Llorens, 233. J. Llorens, 234. J. Llorens, 235. J. Llorens, 236. J. Llorens, 237. J. Llorens, 238. J. Llorens, 239. J. Llorens, 240. J. Llorens, 241. J. Llorens, 242. J. Llorens, 243. J. Llorens, 244. J. Llorens, 245. J. Llorens, 246. J. Llorens, 247. J. Llorens, 248. J. Llorens, 249. J. Llorens, 250. J. Llorens, 251. J. Llorens, 252. J. Llorens, 253. J. Llorens, 254. J. Llorens, 255. J. Llorens, 256. J. Llorens, 257. J. Llorens, 258. J. Llorens, 259. J. Llorens, 260. J. Llorens, 261. J. Llorens, 262. J. Llorens, 263. J. Llorens, 264. J. Llorens, 265. J. Llorens, 266. J. Llorens, 267. J. Llorens, 268. J. Llorens, 269. J. Llorens, 270. J. Llorens, 271. J. Llorens, 272. J. Llorens, 273. J. Llorens, 274. J. Llorens, 275. J. Llorens, 276. J. Llorens, 277. J. Llorens, 278. J. Llorens, 279. J. Llorens, 280. J. Llorens, 281. J. Llorens, 282. J. Llorens, 283. J. Llorens, 284. J. Llorens, 285. J. Llorens, 286. J. Llorens, 287. J. Llorens, 288. J. Llorens, 289. J. Llorens, 290. J. Llorens, 291. J. Llorens, 292. J. Llorens, 293. J. Llorens, 294. J. Llorens, 295. J. Llorens, 296. J. Llorens, 297. J. Llorens,

England ready for leap of faith

By Glenn Moore
Football Correspondent

WHILE the oaks that England have moved their faith healer, Eileon Drewery, into the team hotel stretched the credulity of many England supporters, it was nothing to the leap of faith Portuguese fans were asked to make at the beginning of the month.

Three weeks ago, they awoke to a Portuguese radio report that Iran had pulled out of the World Cup for security reasons and Portugal had been offered their place.

This cruellest of April Fools' Day jokes merely served to exacerbate the sense of failure felt by a team which is widely regarded as the best not to qualify for the finals. How they have reacted to this failure will determine whether England have the toughest of tests or latest of World Cup warm-ups at Wembley tonight.

After a home defeat by Chile and a disappointing draw in Switzerland, there is an argument for England enjoying a morale-boosting big victory, but since that should come with the visit of Saudi Arabia next month, a decent work-out would be more useful.

Although Paul Gascoigne is unlikely to be fit, England will be close to full strength and Glenn Hoddle will learn most from seeing his team stretched. It is a view shared by Paul Ince, who said: "We could play easy teams and roll them over 5-0, but personally I would rather have a team that is a test."

Gascoigne, assuming he does not experience an overnight miracle – and Hoddle has not misled us about his ankle and groin injuries – will be one of several players who do not appear to have reaped any immediate benefit from

Mrs Drewery's arrival in the team hotel.

The most serious casualty is Jamie Redknapp, who was sent back to Liverpool yesterday with knee-ligament damage which will keep him out for the season and thus almost certainly rob him of a World Cup place.

"It is not as bad as first feared but it will still be a three to four-week job in the sidelines," the England coach said. That is beyond the end of the season and Hoddle added: "Let's hope he can get back earlier – some people do come back more quickly – but in terms of the World Cup he has got to come back before the end of the season for sure."

This is a severe blow to both Hoddle and the player whose international career seems jinxed – Redknapp played just 40 minutes before being taken off in Euro 96 and is regularly injured in or just before England games.

On the very few times he and Gascoigne have played together they have looked a well-matched partnership and Hoddle would have liked the chance to see if an Ince-Gascoigne-Redknapp midfield offered more than the present, more negative, Ince-Gascoigne-Batty combination.

With Paul Merson and Steve McManaman also in need of healing, Hoddle may now ask Paul Scholes to fill the creative void left by Gascoigne's absence. Another option is provided by David Beckham, but he will probably start wide before moving inside to give Ray Parlour a first cap on the right flank.

The rest of the side should be close to the one which will line up against Tunisia in 55 days time, with Teddy Sheringham, although struggling for club form with Manchester United, alongside Shearer in attack.

"Not many players feel as much at home as Teddy does

when he pulls on an England shirt," Hoddle said. "He seems to thrive on playing at international level."

The Portuguese, nimble-footed passers and dribblers, are seen as the nearest equivalent to Romania, England's second World Cup opponents. Having controversially failed to qualify from Germany's group, they now have a new manager, Humberto Coelho.

Although an outstanding defender in Benfica's golden era, he was a surprising choice because, having briefly coached Salgueiros and Braga in the mid-Eighties, he has since concentrated on running football schools and working in the media.

For his first match he has lost the inspirational Fiorentina midfielder Rui Costa to a thigh injury, but can still include players from Barcelona and Juventus as well as from the usual Portuguese powerhouses such as Benfica and Sporting Lisbon.

Nuno Gomes, the promising Benfica forward, is one to look out for along with the more established talents of Joao Pinto, Luis Figo and Paulo Sousa. Celtic and West Ham fans may also get a reminder of the mercurial talents of, respectively, Jorge Cadete and Dani.

The likes of Michael Owen, Dion Dublin and Rio Ferdinand will also be hoping for a chance to shine as, after this match, Hoddle will be picking just one more squad before the one that matters.

"These matches are very important games for those on the fringe," Ince said. "People like Michael Owen will be thinking: 'I've had a good season, I've got a chance'. Most people could name 16 or 17 of the final 22, but there are places up for grabs."

ENGLAND (probable): Seaman (Arsenal); Southgate (Aston Villa); Adams (Arsenal); Campbell (Tottenham); Beckham (Man Utd); Ince (Liverpool); Scholes (Man Utd); Batty (Newcastle); Lo Saux (Chelsea); Sheringham (Man Utd); Shearer (Newcastle).



Decisions, decisions: Glenn Hoddle has injury worries clouding his plans for Wembley tonight. Photograph: Robert Hallam

Maldini acts over Italians' striking problem

ITALY'S goalscoring problems have prompted their coach, Cesare Maldini, to unveil a three-pronged attack for tonight's friendly against Paraguay.

Alessandro Del Piero and Christian Vieri, former club team-mates at Juventus, and the winger Francesco Moriero will start together in the first of two matches Italy has left before the World Cup finals in France.

"I want to test an offensive-minded team and Moriero is the right player for this. His imaginative moves and dribbling can produce better scoring chances," Maldini said.

The coach had opted for two forwards throughout qualifying for the finals, and Italy struggled to score. Moriero, earning his second cap, has scored three goals and set up several others during his first campaign with Internazionale. Del Piero and Vieri, who played at Juve together for one year, have scored more than 50 goals between them this season.

The trio will face a Paraguayan team missing two key defenders. Catalino Rivarola, who plays in Brazil, and River Plate's Celso Ayala are sidelined with calf injuries. To compensate, the Paraguay coach, Paulo Cesar Carpegiani, has adopted for a cautious four-man back line. "We are not going to take undue risks against Italy," Carpegiani said.

The key threat will be from Del Piero, the 23-year-old has been in fine form since September, scoring 30 goals for the defending Serie A champions, 20 in league matches and 10 in the cup. He has scored five goals in 14 games for Italy.

"I discovered him with the Under-21 national team. He has made impressive improvements since then," Maldini said.

Vieri, who left Juventus in the summer to join Atletico Madrid, confirmed his scoring talent in the Spanish league. He is the leading scorer with 22 goals. The sturdy forward netted one of the goals which allowed Italy to overcome Russia on a 2-1 aggregate in a World Cup qualifying play-off.

Angelo Peruzzi will start at goalkeeper against Paraguay, with the 20-year-old Parma keeper Gianluigi Buffon ready to replace him in the second half. Inter's Gianluca Pagliuca, who was not called up for this game, has been named as the reserve keeper for France.

Maldini said other half-time changes are possible, to give international experience to newcomers such as defenders Luigi Sartor and Mark Juliano and midfielder Luigi Di Biagio. Italy's defence will rely on the Milan stalwarts Paolo Maldini and Alessandro Costacurta along with Lazio's Alessandro Nesta and Parma's Fabio Cannavaro. ITALY (probable): Peruzzi; Nesta, Maldini, Costacurta, Sartor; Di Biagio, Di Matteo, Albertini, Moriero, Del Piero, Vieri. PARAGUAY (probable): Chaves; Serralle, Rojas, Garmata, Carlos, Arce, Erick, Aguero, Acosta, Rojas, Benitez.

Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford. Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840770. Wednesday 22 April 1998. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.

Strachan escapes stricture

By Andrew Martin

GORDON STRACHAN, the Coventry City manager, has escaped with a warning after admitting a Football Association charge of making insulting comments to a referee.

Strachan was charged after calling Stephen Lodge "a joke" and "an absolute disgrace" following Coventry's 2-2 draw with Arsenal at Highfield Road in January. During the match, Strachan had been angered when the official turned down a penalty appeal by the home side and then sent Paul Williams off for a professional foul on Dennis Bergkamp.

The Coventry manager accepted the charge of insulting behaviour, when he appeared at the FA disciplinary hearing yesterday.

John Hartson's ban has been extended to five games, forcing the West Ham striker to miss the first Premiership game of

next season. Hartson was found guilty of misconduct by the FA following his sending-off at the Reebok Stadium on 21 February. He had been banned for three matches for punching the Derby defender Igor Stimac at Upton Park on 11 April and that mandatory suspension was stretched to four games by the

FA because it was his second red card of the season.

Howard Kendall expects to hear by the end of the week the results of further tests on John Spencer's heart murmur before completing the Scottish international's transfer from Queen's Park Rangers for £1.5m. The Everton manager said:

"If you're a playboy and are not there, then you can't win the FA Cup and be second in the League – that's impossible," he said. "It's a very unfair thing to say – that's what I don't like. Making statements that are not true can hurt your reputation."

Gullit, who was suddenly replaced by Gianluca Vialli as manager in January, maintained that his record in taking

the Blues to the FA Cup last season and guiding them to second place in the Premiership, the Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals and Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-finals this season spoke for itself.

"If you're a playboy and are not there, then you can't win the FA Cup and be second in the League – that's impossible," he said. "It's a very unfair thing to say – that's what I don't like. Making statements that are not true can hurt your reputation."

Gullit hits back at 'playboy' jibe

the Blues to the FA Cup last season and guiding them to second place in the Premiership, the Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals and Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-finals this season spoke for itself.

"If you're a playboy and are not there, then you can't win the FA Cup and be second in the League – that's impossible," he said. "It's a very unfair thing to say – that's what I don't like. Making statements that are not true can hurt your reputation."

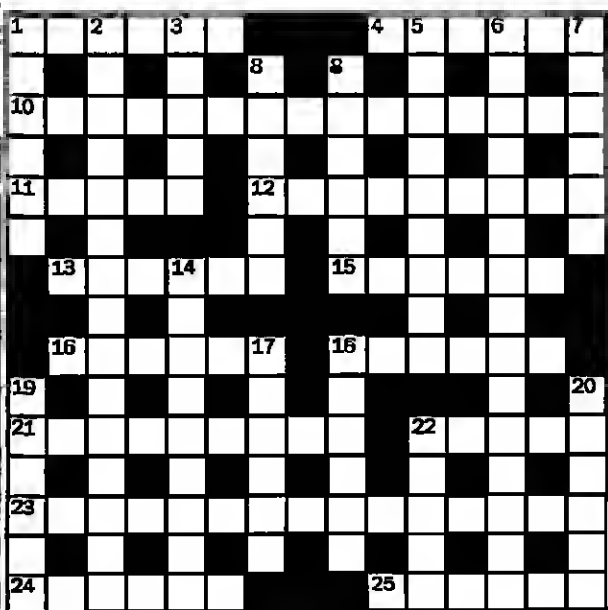
Gullit, who was suddenly replaced by Gianluca Vialli as manager in January, maintained that his record in taking

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3591. Wednesday 22 April

By Aquila

Today's Solution



ACROSS
1 Christian associated with this charity? (6)
4 Drunken pairs, opening Liebfraumilch, find corkscrow (6)
10 Profit from complaint (8,7)
11 Old comic peacock (5)
12 Of course, oldest bus breaks down! (9)
13 Climbs with balance (6)
15 Model pilandered inside ancient Greek city (6)
16 Sheriff's men begin tracking with a warm drink (6)
18 Hull supporters changing horses (6)
21 Gradually introduced one, with name silenced (9)

DOWN
2 Extravagant with C-note in Scandinavian money (5)
3 Advance theories of superior situation in the papers? (15)
4 Plant disease engulfs two quarters of apple (6)
5 Discernment of a copper taking chops on (6)

DOWN
1 In manner of doctor, leaving note nearby? (6)
2 Time out? (15)
3 Flower poles in Scottish river (5)
5 Unpolitic form of exactitude (9)
6 Monster from here destroyed, in a mess? (11-4)

DOWN
7 Up-to-date news of city trial (6)
8 Incidental remarks for a Sunday, 15th of March (6)
9 A spring crowd? (6)
14 Language of girl "with it", due to come out? (9)
17 Bulbs lit up, possibly, on Sunday (6)
18 Cruel type seen in the Tulsa district (6)
19 Tail of sand-piper variegated, like the water-ouzel (6)
20 Exercise, wearing fewer clothes (6)
22 Egyptian church does out opeo for a releaser of spirits (5)

